

6

# CHOOSING KIT

A GUIDE  
TO ACTIVE SERVICE  
REQUIREMENTS

*By the Author of*  
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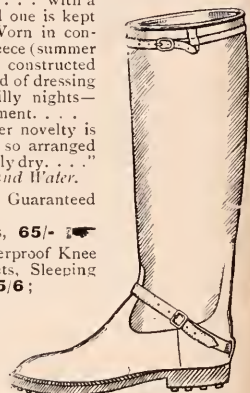
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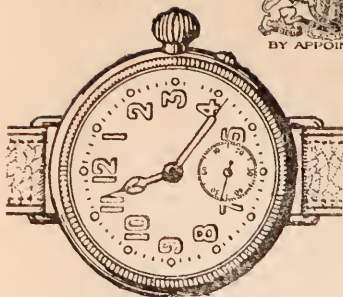
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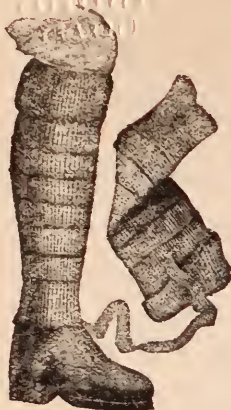
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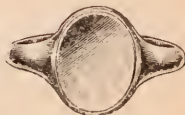
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# CHOOSING KIT

## INTRODUCTION

THE choosing of a kit for campaigning purposes is of far more importance than would appear at first sight, and the path of a recipient of a commission in His Majesty's Army is beset, as he soon finds to his great inconvenience, with many doubts, queries and difficulties when the business of selecting the paraphernalia comprised in the average land kit has to be undertaken. In the peculiarly exacting conditions which active service entails, kit and equipment must be of the very best quality, and the choice of what to take and what not to take must be as nearly perfect as is humanly possible, if a man is to give his very best to his work. Experienced officers will concede that the possession of a good kit is half the battle of active service. The man who has undergone the rigours of campaigning understands the value of good boots, good glasses, perfectly fitting and suitable clothing, and really portable accessories to general comfort; an intelligent choice of these things goes far to make the difference between the successful man and the failure.

A fair estimate of the total outlay on kit and equipment is "£80 for everything." With that expenditure, an officer of any branch of the service

should be fully clothed and equipped for his work. In the following pages an attempt has been made, not to indicate the complete kit in catalogue form, but to indicate the best patterns of various articles which must be taken—the best boots, the best form of clothing, the best overcoat, the best service watch and compass, the best form of sleeping bag—in fact, the best and most suitable article for each purpose that an article of military equipment is intended to serve. A cut-and-dried list of what an officer should take on service cannot be compiled, for the class of article required varies with the branch of the service to which the user belongs, and with the kind of work he will be called on to undertake. In the following pages the wants of all four arms of the service have been considered; cavalry, artillery, infantry, and aircraft officers and men will be able to find things to suit themselves described here. Lightness, strength, and compactness have been borne in mind in every case, and, where necessary, practical tests of the articles recommended have been made in order to ascertain their suitability for their respective purposes. And, further, every recommendation and hint is based on a careful study of the subject of kit and equipment, and also on actual campaigning experience both under tropical and semi-tropical conditions, and in such a climate as that in which the present campaign is being conducted in France and Belgium.

In order to render the book of the greatest possible use to men engaged in the selection of articles of kit and equipment, it has been thought advisable to mention the names of firms from which the articles recommended can be obtained. In no case has the author been influenced by advertising considerations,

but every article has been considered on its own merits, and quite apart from the advertising claims of the firm or firms concerned in manufacture or distribution.

## I

## FOOTGEAR, LEGGINGS, AND PUTTEES

It is safe to say that the most important item of a kit is the pair of boots that will be worn on service—one pair only is admissible, and it lies with the wearer to decide what size and fitting suits him best. He should bear in mind that he ought to take only boots that he can “sleep in.” Not literally, of course, but the boots ought to fit so loosely and easily that they can be worn for at least forty-eight hours without causing discomfort to the wearer. At the same time, they must not chafe the feet; a pair of heavy walking boots, well broken in before departure on service, and roomy enough to be as comfortable at the end of a long march as at the beginning, is the ideal to be striven for. Further, the owner of the boots should take care to obtain and take with him a small tin of ordinary motor grease, or of vaseline, in order to keep the feet in condition, together with a supply of boracic acid, with which to powder chafed skin when necessary. For the carriage of these latter articles an airtight tin is necessary, and this should be rounded in form, for corners are to be avoided in all articles of equipment, since they mean trouble either in the haversack or wherever else they may be carried.

## THE IDEAL MARCHING BOOT.

The best kind of boot for infantry wear, and, in fact, for all hard and continuous wear, was designed for purposes quite apart from the requirements of military officers, in the first place. Some years ago a man home on leave from West Africa was getting equipment and stores together against his return to "the Coast," and in the course of making purchases from Messrs. Fortnum and Mason he inquired if it would be possible to find a boot which would permit of his standing ankle deep in water all day and every day at the tin mines of Nigeria, and still hope to keep his feet dry. This, on the face of it, was an impossible proposition, but it was done—the boot was forthcoming. Later, the man in question talked about the boot among military officers and others, with the result that the establishment from which this particular boot is turned out has had all the work it can cope with since the war began, and Messrs. Fortnum and Mason, who act as distributors, can just manage to keep the supply abreast of the demand.

The boot is ordinary in appearance, except that it is capless; from waist to toe the soft, thin-looking leather goes without a seam, and that leather is waterproofed by a process which makes it sound for a matter of nine months' wear—and the man who wants more than that will never be satisfied on this earth, for the boot that lasts even six months under service wear and strain is an abnormal product. I queried the absence of nails in the sole, which is plainly stitched—hand stitched—with a row of tiny screws along the stitching for extra strength, and the makers' reply to the query was final. "The strength of a sole lies not in steel nails, but in its power to

withstand the wet"—and that I know to be true. The sole of this boot is of leather, proofed by some process to such an extent that if the sole is warmed one can see the grease in the leather, and the proofing is so effective that pioneers from the tropics, military men, and others who want the very ultimate service out of their equipment come back again and again for other pairs. The West African man who first discovered the boot comes in regularly for two pairs every eighteen months—nine months per pair, as the makers claim. For marching purposes steel "brads" are screwed both at toe and heel to give a grip of the ground, but for wear one depends entirely on the capacity of the leather to withstand wet—which means to withstand wear.

#### VENTILATION.

The stitching of the uppers—the ordinary machine work that one gets on all boots—is reinforced throughout by hand stitching, and altogether this particular boot looks and is as workmanlike an article as one can obtain in these days of shoddy and cut prices; it is real, good, honest workmanship throughout. In the matter of ventilation, the boot is a sufficiently good article to admit a drawback. One must either sacrifice the waterproof quality of the boot, or be content to do without ventilation, for combination of the two qualities is impossible—footwear that will keep out the wet *must* keep out everything else as well: it is only logical.

Admitting the matter of footwear as the most important of all from a service point of view, here is the most important item of service kit—the best marching boot. I have given the boot a practical test



extending over a period of months, and have found it waterproof in days of muddy weather, and absolutely comfortable in all weathers. The uppers retain their softness in spite of wet, and the proofed soles wear interminably, though tried on the worst of gravel and flinty roads. With this particular class of boot a man is well and comfortably shod for nine months, which is virtually a record period of wear for a service boot. Two special points, which would count as drawbacks ordinarily but are advantages on service, are the absence of the toe-cap, and the exceptionally large lace-holes. The first of these makes for longer wear; the second admits of the use of string or any other fastening in case a lace breaks when there is no possibility of normal replacement, and also admits of fastening the boot up in shorter time than the usual small lace-holes in ankle boots.

#### A RIDING BOOT.

Realising that, when worn for more than twelve hours at a time, the ordinary boot does not give enough vertical space at the toe, a bootmaker conceived the idea of adapting the Norwegian ski boot to riding and trench use; in the ordinary pattern boot the toe is flat, and however roomy and easy fitting the boot may be, the fact still remains that the toes are held down by the upper of the boot pressing against them, while in a ski boot there is room to move the toes up and down, and so get over the problem of restricted circulation which arises when boots are worn for a day or two at a time. But the problem was not solved for mounted work by the ski boot as it was; for trench and mounted use it had to be made a knee boot, waterproof to the top, and had

also to be constructed so that it could be put on and pulled off as easily as an ankle boot; this was done by lacing the leg all the way up, or else (and this I think the better method) lacing half-way up from the toe, and fastening the rest of the way by means of three buckles on the outside of the leg. The final result is a boot which is no heavier than an ordinary ankle boot and legging, is thoroughly waterproof for trench work, and at the same time is a comfortable marching and riding boot which the wearer can get off and on as easily as a laced ankle boot—there is no need for the use of a boot jack or any implement of that kind, and the clumsiness in wear, which makes so many waterproofed trench boots impracticable for marching and riding, is done away with. This particular boot is made out of best leather and practical experience of military needs, and it may be relied on for any kind of service use, but is more especially adapted for use by mounted men. It is supplied by Messrs. Maxwell, of Dover Street, Piccadilly.

#### MARCHING SOLES.

An innovation in the manufacture of boot soles has been accomplished by Messrs. McAfee, of Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, who have combined rubber and leather in such a way as to produce a boot sole that cannot be passed by without mention. On account of its wearing qualities in comparison with leather, rubber cannot be considered as an effective material for soling marching boots. At the same time there is a resiliency and ease about it that make it desirable for any man who has much marching to do; then again on the other side, rubber heats the

feet and renders them uncomfortable if worn too long. What is wanted is the springiness of rubber with the coolness and strength of leather, and this ideal has been attained by combining the two. Next to the foot is a good thickness of leather; under that is placed a sheet of rubber with projections on the under side that look like fat-headed hobnails, and these go quite through another sheet of leather, which forms the sole that has contact with the ground. The rubber studs give springiness and grip, and the leather gives strength, while the combination is as waterproof as it is possible to make a boot sole. Comfort and strength go together in this pattern of sole, which has been adapted by the makers to boots suited both for riding and infantry marching purposes.

#### ABOUT BOOTS GENERALLY.

A point which crops up in connection with footwear is the conservatism of officers and men. Several firms concerned in the production and sale of service boots, although they themselves own that a plain-toed boot is better in wear than one with a capped toe, find that officers *will* have boots with capped toes because the boots of the rank and file have plain toes, or had plain toes, or in any case, officers have always worn boots with capped toes, and therefore they will not have plain-toed boots. Further, they had been used to hand-sewn boots, and, although the machine-sewn article (as far as the uppers are concerned) has entirely replaced the hand-sewn, they still agitate for hand-sewing, though in all the West End establishments a boot census would not reveal a hundred pairs with hand-sewn uppers. The reason for this latter

is not far to seek; in the stitching of soles, which is still done by hand, the waxing of the thread and the securing of elasticity are matters which profit from hand work, but, in the manufacture of uppers, machine work—that is, the very best machine work with the very best material—is far more constant in character and finer than any hand work could be. A machine does not go out for the evening and come to work the following morning with a headache, and its work is, in consequence, more regular than the human element. This latter element must supply the machine with the best materials, and then the best work will result. Hand-sewing can be employed to supplement and strengthen the work of the machine at the points of greatest strain, where reinforcement is a necessity.

#### A CAPPED BOOT.

As a test of quality, I took a pair of the best marching boots supplied by the London Shoe Company, made with machined uppers and hand-sewn soles, and provided with the normal small lace-holes and toecaps in deference to convention and the wishes of officers who insist on toecaps for marching boots. I wore these boots—for the first time, be it remembered—for fourteen hours on end. Examination proved them perfect in workmanship and material, and in wear they proved thoroughly comfortable—and that is a good deal to say for a pair of boots when wearing them for the first time. Subsequent wear showed they were as thoroughly waterproof as boots can be; the leather is treated to make them so, and they improve on acquaintance. I still raise objections to the toecaps—which are not

a necessity but a concession to convention—and to the small lace-holes. Many wearers, however, will have these things, and this is the best boot I know in which they are embodied.

#### PUTTEES.

Puttees, I believe, are of Indian origin ; though as leg coverings they have some advantages, there are also many drawbacks. If put on too loosely, puttees slip, of course ; if, on the other hand, they are put on ever so little too tightly, the result is torture in the course of a few miles' march. Experience will overcome these drawbacks, but I have never yet found the man whose experience would enable him to put on a pair of puttees in a fairly reasonable time—that is, compared with the time a man takes to put on an ordinary pair of leather leggings. Yet again, in wet weather a pair of puttees is equivalent to a pair of water traps if one is wearing a waterproof, for though puttees are “ proofed ” in the same way as a rainproof coat, they will not stand against wet when subjected to friction, such as the edge of a wet coat chafing against them. The water drains down the back of the coat and steadily soaks into the puttees above the backs of the boots, with the result that the wearer has two boots full of feet and water, instead of neat feet, by the end of the day. There is supposed to be an advantage on the side of puttees in the matter of warmth ; with experience, however, of both puttees and leggings, my own preference is on the side of the leggings as far as warmth is concerned.

#### AN IMPROVED PUTTEE.

The drawbacks attendant on the use of puttees have been overcome, as far as seems possible at



present, by trebling the width and making them of waterproof cloth. The problem of putting on the puttees, so that they shall be neither too tight nor too loose, is considerably modified, since with this treble width three turns round the leg suffice to wind the whole thing on, and it is obviously easier to make three turns round the leg correctly than to make nine. The business of water soaking in is obviated, since these improved puttees are made of waterproof material, and they can be put on in about a quarter the time that is occupied in winding on an ordinary puttee. Altogether, this new pattern puttee, which is devised by Messrs. Thomas, of Brook Street, W., is a distinct improvement on the old slow winding article, and in appearance it is just the same—though on service appearance counts for little.

#### PUTTEE STOCKINGS.

“A stocking without a foot, that looks like a puttee,” was the description one man gave when asking for this article, and he described it as well as is possible. Most service men know the relief that comes from taking off a pair of puttees which have been worn all day, and this stocking puttee, supplied by Messrs. Turnbull and Asser, of Jermyn Street, is designed to give that relief while retaining the appearance of puttees. There is no need to take off one's boots, but one can just pull the stocking puttees on over them, wind the strings round at the top—and the whole business is only a matter of seconds. These puttee stockings, warm and thoroughly comfortable as they are, are to be recommended as part of the sleeping and general “off duty” kit of the man on or going on service.

## LEGGINGS.

Owing to the rules of military service, many officers are condemned to wear puttees, in spite of the fact that their own inclinations are all on the side of leggings, which, incontestably, last longer and keep out the wet far better than any puttee can, if the leather of which they are made is worth the name; further—though this is of little account on service—puttees never look quite so smart and business-like as leggings.

Practically all men who wear leggings know that the ordinary pattern, with lace and stud, drags down on one side. Various devices, such as a strap and buckle at the top, a new way of setting studs, and a spring clip at the top—to mention a few methods—have been adopted to keep the edges of the legging square to each other at top and bottom, but not one of them seems to be of any permanent use. The strap and buckle, if pulled tight enough to serve their purpose, cramp the leg; the spring clip gets worn and does not act as it ought; and new ways of setting the studs also involve wear beyond the normal and consequent dissatisfaction on the part of the wearer. Recently, however, Messrs. Thomas, of Brook Street, devised a pattern of legging with no studs and two rows of holes for the laces; only one of these shows when the legging is fastened. In this improved pattern of legging, a single lace is responsible for all the fastening, which is done in such a way that only three holes need be unlaced to remove the legging, and the pressure of the leg against the leather acts just as well as a knot in keeping the lace tight.

In matters of clothing and equipment for service, the quickness with which articles can be adjusted and

settled in their places counts, and the adjustment of this legging is a remarkably quick affair, while, with only one row of holes showing down the front and no studs sticking out, the legging itself is eminently neat in appearance. Leather and workmanship are of the highest quality, and the legging is absolutely reliable, as good in quality as it is comfortable in wear, and as good two years after purchase as when purchased.

#### CANVAS LEGGINGS.

These improved leggings are made, not only in leather of ordinary weight and in a special light-weight leather for summer wear, but also in a stout waterproof canvas. It appears that the reduction in bulk in no way affects the comfort, fit, and appearance of the legging. Officers proceeding to the scene of operations in the Dardanelles, or to any tropical station, might with advantage include a pair of these canvas leggings in their kits.

#### SUMMER FOOTWEAR.

One item of footwear which the war has popularized for summer use is the doeskin boot, which, for lightness and coolness, has some advantages over ordinary leather, though, of course, it cannot be considered waterproof, nor has it the hard wearing qualities of the marching and riding boots already described. It can be obtained, in sound and strong make, with marching sole for service use, from Messrs. McAfee, of Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, and, as made by this firm, is as comfortable a boot as one could desire. One must get this boot in good quality or not at all; the cheaper grades go to pieces at the

first shower of rain, and are in every way unsuited to service requirements. This particular pattern, however, is well worthy of consideration for summer use, when water-resisting qualities are not of so much account.

#### CARE OF THE FEET.

The care of the feet, especially in the case of infantry officers and men, is of even more importance than the choice of boots. Cleanliness, of course, is the first requisite of all; at times absolute cleanliness is an impossibility on active service; cases arise where men have no opportunity for removing even their boots for days at a time, and in such circumstances as these the oldest and simplest appliances of all for the preservation of foot health seem to be about the best. In warm weather ordinary brown washing soap, or Sunlight soap rubbed plentifully on the soles of the socks and over the toes, is as conducive to comfort as anything for most men. Another comfort producer, well known among military men—and especially among the rank and file—is powdered Robin starch dusted over the socks, and another is ordinary motor grease rubbed into the feet. Another and more thoroughly antiseptic method of insuring comfort is to dust the socks with boracic powder. Choice between these simple methods is best determined by experience.

Frostbite, so prevalent in the first months of the war, was alleged to be due as much to restricted circulation as to the cold and wet to which the troops were subjected. Through constantly standing in water the skin of the feet grew porous, and the water soaked in; restricted circulation permitted the soaked

outer skin of the feet to freeze, and the result usually came to hospital. Where waders are impracticable, some means of preventing wet from soaking into the tissues of the foot has to be contrived, and this object has been achieved by Messrs. Squire, the King's chemists, of Oxford Street, in the form of an ointment which is mildly stimulating and antiseptic, and at the same time has in it sufficient grease to resist the penetration of water. So effectual was this form of treatment found that tens of thousands of tubes of the ointment were sent out to France for use by the troops. The ointment is put up in tubes after the manner of shaving sticks; it is pushed up from the bottom of the tube, and the end of the stick, when rubbed on the foot, produces a waterproof coating on the skin, which acts as a preventive of frostbite. Being based on a common-sense principle, this ointment was found to give thoroughly satisfactory results in the trenches; it is also an excellent foot-dressing for ordinary use; it keeps the feet in good marching condition, apart from the prevention of frostbite, as, although it renders the skin waterproof, it does not clog the pores in such a way as to prevent perspiration.

#### COLD FEET.

With regard to cold feet, Hungarian officers are responsible for the advice to "stick an asbestos sock in your boot, and your feet will be comfortable in winter and summer." The idea, of course, is that asbestos is a nearly absolute non-conductor of heat, and thus with an asbestos sock the foot retains all its warmth in winter in spite of the cold ground, while in summer the heat does not strike up from the



sole of the boot. Another and rather doubtful advantage is that, if the insides of the boots get wet, the asbestos socks can be taken out and dried, after which they will form some sort of protection for the feet.

#### AN ITALIAN EXPEDIENT.

It is alleged that in the Italian Army soldiers often use a handkerchief in place of a sock or stocking, and find it a preventive against blisters when marching. The handkerchief is laid open on the ground and the foot placed in the middle with the toes facing toward one corner, and the heel, of course, toward the opposite corner; the front corner is first lifted and laid back on to the instep; the two sides are folded over this, and then the heel piece is lifted so that all four corners of the handkerchief can be held by one hand round the ankle; the stocking is then slipped over the foot by the other hand, the ends of the handkerchief being held in place until covered by the sock. It is alleged that a handkerchief so placed inside a thin sock or stocking is better than a single thick foot covering. The only drawback to the idea seems to lie in the handkerchief getting wrinkled on a long march, but this form of foot comfort has certainly been demonstrated by practical experience.

#### PERSONAL PECULIARITIES.

In the matter of a choice of boots and also in the care of the feet, individual peculiarities count for much. Some men's feet perspire so freely as to neutralise the oil in leather, and perish the uppers of boots to such an extent as to render them cracked and useless in even as short a time as six months. Others,

again, suffer even in summer weather from cold feet—in the material sense—and on the whole the saying about one man's meat being another man's poison is well exemplified in this matter of foot comfort. It may be laid down as a general rule that for men whose feet incline to the cold side, such forms of foot-dressing as the ointment already mentioned in connection with frostbite are of service, while in these cases, also, exceptionally roomy boots should be provided in order that circulation of the blood should be as unrestricted as possible. In the case of men whose feet are more liable to excessive heat and perspiration, starch and boracic powder are the most useful aids to foot comfort, while soap, as already mentioned, is of value on account of its astringent properties. The prevention of perspiration of the feet is not to be sought for; it constitutes a danger in destroying a natural vent for perspiration and the impurities which perspiration assists in expelling from the system.

One of the most apparently unlikely preventives of cold feet, but at the same time one of the most effective in actual practice, consists in the use of chamois-leather socks. These are not intended to be worn next the foot, but over a pair of ordinary woollen socks; in this way they prove most effective, having won golden opinions from several men who have actually tried them in the present campaign. They take up so little room that the size of the boot need not be altered, and they are easily washable. It is not fully realised that the properties of leather, including chamois leather, approach very nearly to the properties of the human skin, and if one can get over the dislike of the feeling of leather next the skin

—which is only a transient prejudice—it will be found that leather is the most naturally ventilated and the most comfortable form of cold weather wear. This is true of these chamois-leather socks, which can be obtained to order from Messrs. Turnbull and Asser, of Jermyn Street, and of which many pairs are in use by men who, having undergone service conditions, know the best form of footgear.

## II

### PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

#### HAVERSACKS.

The regulation pattern of haversack has many imperfections; there is, for instance, a pocket at the back, which, if the haversack be full or half full, is utterly useless—one can get nothing in and nothing out of this pocket, except when the haversack is so empty as to lie flat against the body. Again, when the flap is lifted, a horizontal loop will be discovered inside and at the top of the haversack; the use of this nobody has yet been able to determine. These things should be discarded; the back pocket should be *inside* the haversack, which should be made throughout from waterproof fabric, and the front flap should fasten with a buckle and fairly long strap, in place of the button on the regulation pattern article, which, when the haversack is full, cannot be fastened in either buttonhole, since the button is too low to reach the holes. Messrs. Desborough, of 170, Piccadilly, have designed a haversack fitted with swivels for fastening either to the waist-belt or to a swivel shoulder strap, and with these are combined loops at the back, which

enable the article to be worn rucksack fashion if desired. The haversack itself is made of strong waterproof canvas; it is divided into two compartments, and is innocent of the useless inside loop at the top, and the equally useless map-case at the back. It is adjustable by means of two tiny strings at the top as regards the carrying space between the front and back. Two small straps, riveted to the back of the haversack and sewn as well, carry the swivels, and these straps are continued down over the flap in front, where they meet buckles which fasten them—and plenty of spare strap is allowed for a well-filled haversack. It is a practical article, neat in appearance, and designed to give the greatest amount of use in hard field-work. An almost identical pattern of haversack is supplied by Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, of 185, Piccadilly; this pattern, designed by an officer actually serving at the front, differs from the one already described in being fitted with one centre strap and buckle instead of two. Choice between the two is mainly a matter of taste; either pattern is a great improvement on the regulation article.

#### A COMBINATION.

A distinct innovation in haversacks is one which, constructed of strong waterproof material and fulfilling all the purposes of the ordinary article, will also act as an air cushion. It may be two or three ounces heavier than the ordinary patterned article, but the difference in weight is negligible, and one who has had the convenience of an air cushion will appreciate this distinctly ingenious addition to the uses of the ordinary haversack. One fault there is, and that is the presence of a button and buttonhole instead of a

strap and buckle. This, however, is a defect that can be easily remedied by the makers of the article, Messrs. Stud and Millington, of Conduit Street, W.

#### WATER-BOTTLE.

The regulation pattern officer's water-bottle affords as much ground for cavilling as does the regulation haversack. Although curved to fit the curve of the body, it is constructed in such a manner as to contain two sharp interior angles, which, if the bottle is used for anything but plain water, become traps for impurities, and cannot possibly be cleaned effectively. Further, the regulation pattern in aluminium is never free from the possibility of leakage, for aluminium cannot be soldered, and the joints of the regulation water-bottle are never safe. The best water-bottle which approaches to the regulation shape, and is aluminium in substance, is supplied by Messrs. Desborough, of 170, Piccadilly. Instead of being jointed with interior angles, it is "spun up" from one piece of aluminium; its angles are rounded, making cleaning a much easier matter; the possibility of leakage is obviated, and the metal is of such thickness and strength that this form of water-bottle will stand the hard knocks of active service. Its capacity is a quart, and it is felt-covered and fitted into a "cradle" of leather straps, which permits of its being carried either by shoulder-strap or on the belt, and also allows of the bottle being detached for use without trouble.

#### A NICKEL WATER-BOTTLE.

The aluminium water-bottle described above is as near as it is possible to get to the ideal, while retaining



a semblance of the regulation shape, and it is also ideal as regards lightness. A better shape, however, is embodied in a nickel bottle which is silver-plated inside, thus rendering corrosion impossible, no matter what kind of drinkable fluid is carried. It may best be described as regards shape by saying that the side which fits next the wearer is slightly concave, and is U-shaped; on to this is fitted an oval section of metal, so that the bottle is half an oval in form, with a rounded top, on which is either a screw stopper or a bayonet fastening such as is fitted to spirit flasks—the form of stopper is a matter of choice. It is not covered with the felt that absorbs moisture with pure joy and makes the wearer's side wet, his life a misery, and his language questionable, but with a canvas that will rather repel water than hold it, and in any case, could not hold as much as the old-time felt if it tried. It is supplied by Messrs. Studd and Millington, of Conduit Street, W., either with shoulder-strap or with swivels for attaching to the waist-belt. The size of the bottle, with a capacity of a quart, is such that it will slip easily into a tunic pocket—not that one would want to take it off its strap or swivel and slip it into a tunic pocket, but merely as an illustration of its size and portability.

Choice between this water-bottle and the aluminium pattern previously described is a matter of taste; each has much to recommend it, and either is infinitely superior to the regulation pattern of water-bottle, which will be officially abandoned by the time a method has been devised of carrying water in slabs in the vest pocket, and probably not before.

Another point in connection with water-bottles is the kind of covering. The bottle must be covered in

some way, and the usual and conventional way is to cover it with felt, on the supposition that the felt can be soaked in water, and that it will then keep the contents of the bottle cool for a matter of hours. Even in the tropics I have not found this to be the case. My experience of the felt cover is that, instead of cooling the contents of the bottle, it makes a wet patch in the side of the tunic, rendering the wearer decidedly uncomfortable, and then dries, leaving the contents of the bottle to care for themselves. Further, felt, of such quality as is covered over the regulation pattern bottle, wears on the side that chafes against the body of the wearer, and gets ragged and loose on the bottle after a month or two of wear. The best alternative covering is a stout twill, with which both the bottles described above can be covered at the option of the wearer; this material wears far better than the ordinary felt, satisfies all requirements as to the invisibility of the bottle, and, making no claim to keeping the water or other contents of the bottle cool, does not soak water through the clothing of the wearer. It seems about the best form of covering, so far, and that point about keeping the water cool is not of urgent importance in such a climate as that of Belgium and Northern France, where the present campaign seems likely to be fought out. It is certainly not of such importance as in the tropics, where the felt covering has been tried and proved a failure.

#### A COMBINATION WATER-BOTTLE.

The subject of water-bottles cannot be concluded without reference to the combination mess-tin and water-bottle produced by Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, of 185, Piccadilly, in which the mess-tin of the

ordinary round or cavalry pattern encloses a full-sized water-bottle, the weight of the two articles together being only an ounce or two more than either of the ordinary patterns taken separately. The water-bottle in this combination is "spun up" out of one piece of aluminium, so that there are no seams nor square edges, and the possibility of leakage is reduced to the absolute minimum, independently of the protection afforded to the bottle by its covering "tin." The mess-tin forms a serviceable cooking vessel, and its lid makes an excellent frying-pan or plate—according to what may be required at the moment. Then, since a water-bottle must be covered, a cover which also forms a carrier completes the article—one cannot leave the cover behind by mistake without leaving water-bottle and mess-tin as well. The bottle can be used without removing it from the mess-tin—it is just as accessible and handy as the ordinary water-bottle—and the fact of having the mess-tin thickness of metal between it and the cover adds to its coolness. Altogether, the whole idea is one of real practical use for campaigning purposes, and this combination article can be recommended with confidence.

## KNIVES.

A useful kit accessory in most circumstances is a sheath knife something like that carried in badger hunting, with a blade of six inches or more, and a guard at the end of the haft. Such a knife can be obtained either from Messrs. John Pound and Co. at their Oxford Street or Leadenhall Street establishments, or from Messrs. Mappin and Webb in Oxford Street, and it proves useful in cutting up meat for

cooking when on detached duty, and in half a hundred other ways. Most of these knives are made with a catch, which will enable the owner to stand on his head, if he likes, without dislodging the knife from its sheath, and this pattern should be selected, for in the various twists and turns that a man makes in the course of an ordinary day's work there is every chance of the unfastened form of knife dropping out of its sheath. Men will make their own choice between carrying a knife of this kind and an ordinary clasp knife with more or less of fittings which have no relation whatever to cutlery; the various accessories supplied in many clasp knives prove of very little use on service, with the possible exception of a corkscrew, and possibly for mounted men the hoofpick. On the whole, the sheath-knife is the more useful article *qua* knife, although it is a knife pure and simple as opposed to a tool-shop.

#### TOWELS.

Chances of washing are rare at times on service, but where they exist, and kit is scarce, it is easy for a towel to get "smelly" through being packed away damp, day after day, and the owner has little or no chance of changing it for a clean one. It has been ascertained that this drawback can be overcome by the use of chamois-leather towels—a curious form of substitute for the ordinary article, but a remarkably good one. A good, soft, chamois-leather skin will wash out better, and last its user far longer than any linen towel; it is easier to keep clean, and, strange though it may seem, is quite as efficient in use as any linen towel. Messrs. Swaine and Adeney make a speciality of this form of towel.

## WRIST WATCHES.

Men have their own fancies about the choice of a wrist watch; there is, for instance, the fad about a black dial, which is supposed to make the luminous points on the watch more distinct at night. Having tried both black and white dials, I cannot see any difference between the distinctness of the two sets of points in the dark—either is easily distinguishable, with the modern “radium paint” points. Then again, there is the point of the screw-on face and back—which incontestably makes the best pattern of case—and the waterproofing of the watch by means of this. So long as the screw-on case renders the mechanism of the watch dustproof, that is about all that is really required; even if a watch were waterproof, it would not make much difference to the wearer, for if the watch remained long enough under water to affect a non-waterproof watch, the wearer would have no more use for watches, waterproof or otherwise. A sound, strongly constructed watch, with either white or black dial, luminous, with screw-on back and front—or screw-on front and solid back—is needed for service wear. Out of their own experience, reputable makers take care that the watch they sell is fit in every way for its work, and as long as the buyer does not attempt national insurance—that is, ninepence for fourpence on the three-guinea scale—there is no need to bother about the waterproofness or otherwise of the watch.

## UNBREAKABLE.

The principal trouble in connection with the ordinary wrist watch on service is the glass face, for once that face is broken the watch is useless—there is



no watchmaker's shop just round the corner, at which a new glass can be fitted, on service, and one cannot wear a watch without a face-cover of some sort, especially on service. As a first way of getting over this difficulty, Messrs. Smith and Son, of Trafalgar Buildings, Charing Cross, devised a cover which turned the watch into a sort of hunter, and a very good idea it was, the only drawback being that the watch was rendered rather bulky and clumsy by the addition of the cover—not so bulky but that it was still a wrist watch, and a serviceable wrist watch at that. But, later, the same firm brought another idea to bear on the problem; in place of the ordinary glass or crystal face-cover, the watch is fitted with a cover of unbreakable material which has all the transparency of glass without its fragility; it looks exactly like glass, but “you may play on it with anything short of a coke-hammer,” and it makes no difference. That is to say, if you want to break up the face of this particular watch, you must pound it to such an extent that the watch itself will be disabled beyond further use; all the ordinary knocks on the face, such as would smash the glass of an ordinary wrist watch and render it utterly unavailable for active service, make no impression on this unbreakable face. The watch is the same size, and save for its face-cover the same in every way, as the glass-covered one; it is an excellent timekeeper, and its face will last as long as its works—which is saying a good deal.

#### AN ALARM WATCH.

Only slightly larger than the ordinary wrist watch, and certainly no thicker than many wrist watches, is a timekeeper which is quite ordinary in appearance,

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but possessing within its case an alarm which can be set as easily as a kitchen clock, and is of sufficient resonance to waken any ordinary sleeper. The outer back of this watch is arranged for standing the watch in a slanting position, the movement is thoroughly reliable, and the dial is luminous. It is an excellent accessory to the kit of a staff officer on service, and is supplied by Messrs. Smith and Sons, to whose productions reference has already been made. The gong which forms the alarm is of such a size that the tone is fully effective, and the movement of the watch is well and soundly constructed. Unfortunately, the supply is rather limited, and it is only just possible to keep abreast of the demand.

#### MESS-TINS.

The pattern of the mess-tin is such that no reasonable alterations can be made in it to render any pattern superior to the regulation article. Certain makers, however, have fitted the inside of the mess-tin with a variety of useful articles, so that, although the standard pattern is retained as regards the exterior vessel and its lid, there is in the compass of the standard pattern much more than a mere pot and plate or frying-pan. Two patterns are well worthy of description, and both have found favour with officers actually serving. The first of these is supplied by Messrs. Desborough, of Piccadilly, and is constructed of aluminium throughout, although it goes under the name of "tin." The exterior vessel forms a cooking-pan of, probably, about two pints capacity—perhaps more than that—and the lid forms a frying-pan, after the manner of the ordinary mess-tin. When the whole affair is packed, half the interior is

occupied by a semi-circular vessel with separate lid, in which the meat ration can be carried, either cooked or uncooked. There are two lidded receptacles for the tea or coffee and sugar rations, and yet another vessel which may be used for carrying pepper and salt, while the handle of the outer pan is detachable, so that it can be used either for the cooking-pot or the frying pan, and its other end forms a fork. Altogether this form of mess-tin—featherweight in character—is a *multum in parvo* and well deserving of consideration.

The other fitted mess-tin is produced by Messrs. Studd and Millington, of Conduit Street, and by other firms as well. It is highly ingenious in construction, as regards its contents when packed, though the outer tin and lid are normal enough to conform to regulation pattern. The fittings comprise a kettle of about a quart capacity, a spirit lamp, cup for drinking, plate, and tea infuser, as well as a can for carrying a supply of spirit for the lamp—and all these articles pack into the mess-tin itself for carrying. The large outer vessel, with detachable handle, forms a saucepan or “billy,” and the detachable handle also fits on the lid, which serves admirably as a frying-pan. Strongly constructed of aluminium, this fitted mess-tin, with khaki drill cover and strap, weighs only an ounce or two more than the ordinary pattern tin, and it certainly makes for comfort on field service.

#### MIRRORS.

The way in which one carries a glass mirror on field service is of little importance, for sooner or later the glass will get broken, no matter how it is



carried. A nickel mirror, polished on both sides and as free from distortion as metal can possibly be, is supplied either by Messrs. John Pound, of Leadenhall Street and Oxford Street, or by Messrs. Mappin and Webb, of Oxford Street and Cheapside. This mirror can be obtained in a size that fits in the breast pocket of the tunic, and the wash-leather case which affords plenty of protection for the polished metal surface takes up not a tenth of the room that would be occupied by the case required to keep a glass mirror from harm, and thus one saves in the matters of weight and bulk, as well as in safety and durability.

#### FLASKS.

Two points are worth remembering in connection with the choice of a spirit flask: in the first place experience shows that a silver flask is just as clean in use as glass, and a reliable metal-covered glass flask is not to be obtained—the make has gone out. The makers of Britannia-metal flasks claim that their wares are just as non-corrosive as silver goods, and this statement appears to be pretty well substantiated by laboratory experiments; all the same, I would pin my faith to the silver flask in preference to any nickel or Britannia-metal flask ever made. In the second place, it seems difficult, when men are starting out campaigning, to persuade them that the flask is *not* intended to provide casual drinks, but is intended to act as an emergency ration of the best spirit—brandy for preference—that can be obtained. The man who has not sense enough to restrict himself to his water-bottle, and leave the reserve of spirit in the flask for emergencies, ought not to go campaigning, for the drink of brandy in the flask may save a life

at any minute, and should be reserved solely for urgent need.

The best form of flask is that made of solid silver, with bayonet top. Many men seem to object to paying five shillings or so extra for a hinged or "bayonet" top, but this is the very worst form of economy, for the flask with bayonet top is complete for as long as the user has need of it, while the flask with detachable top may become useless at any time through the top being lost—a much easier matter than might be supposed. Such a silver flask can be obtained from almost any reputable firm of silversmiths—Messrs. Mappin and Webb, Messrs. John Pound and Co., or the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Co. in Regent Street, are all suitable firms to patronise for such an article.

For those who cannot afford a silver flask—and I trust they may be few in number—Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, of Piccadilly, have produced a flask which is manufactured in nickel and silver-plated *inside* with a view to the absolute avoidance of corrosion. This flask is, first of all, made in two parts, in the usual oblong shape; these parts are joined so as to form one unleakable whole, and then the interior plating is done, so that the flask is equivalent to a silver one, so far as its interior goes. It is then fitted with a good bayonet top, and thus forms a flask which, as regards price, is within the reach of any officer or man, which is neat in appearance (if that is desired), handy in form, and sufficiently stout in manufacture to stand any amount of knocking about, without acquiring dents and creases. It is a thoroughly serviceable article at a reasonable price.

## WADERS.

One of the most popular articles of personal equipment, both among officers and men, during the winter months, was a pattern of wader designed for use with the ordinary military boot, and fitting inside the boot. From top to toe it was made of the same thickness of waterproofed material, and it reached well above the knee, fastening to the suspender button at the waist. The weight of a pair was just over a pound, and the pair folded into very small compass, while in use each wader slipped over the ordinary sock and went inside even a closely fitting boot. Designed and produced by Messrs. Anderson and Co., of Queen Victoria Street and Cockspur Street, this made about the cheapest and most portable form of wader for trench use—or for any other purpose in which it might be desired to waterproof the legs up to above the knee.

The only drawback to this particular form of wader lay in its exposing the wearer's boots to the full action of water, and rendering them very uncomfortable if for any reason he had to abandon the wader and take to plain boots before these latter were dried. For the protection of the boots as well as of the legs and feet, either Messrs. Anderson, Anderson and Co. or Messrs. J. W. Elvery, of Conduit Street, make waders to fit over the boots. From both these firms such waders can be obtained in good quality, though of course, as the absolute protection against water which they afford consists in their rubber proofing, one season's wear only is to be expected of them, and even less than that if the wear to which they are subjected is hard and continuous. Rubber, the only practical and absolute waterproof material, is less permanent

than many things in the matter of wear, and the man who blames the makers of waders or similar rubber goods on the score of durability is more often than not expecting impossibilities to be achieved.

#### REVOLVER HOLSTERS.

Consideration of the position of the ordinary revolver holster on a "Sam Browne" or other belt will bring the conclusion that it is very difficult to get the revolver out of the holster and into use as quickly as is desirable, for in getting a revolver or pistol into use every second counts. In order to overcome the awkwardness of the regulation holster, Messrs. Champion and Wilton, of Oxford Street, designed a modification of the cowboy holster, which hangs down the thigh from a loose belt, and is kept in position by a small strap passed round the leg just above the knee. In spite of its unhandy appearance, this form of holster will be found by far the best and most serviceable carrier for a revolver or automatic pistol.

#### WRITING MATERIALS.

A good many varieties of writing pads and wallets have been placed on the market, all specially designed for the use of the troops, and, in many cases, the designers are people who know little or nothing—generally nothing—about the troubles and limitations of active service. The complicated arrangement of paper and blotter and envelopes, with a neat and supposedly waterproof case, is usually a snare and a delusion. Its best substitute, short of a serviceable leather wallet, is a plain pad of tear-off postcards and

a lead pencil. Pigskin wallets are made in serviceable form by many firms, notably by Messrs. Shoolbred, John Pound and Co., and Mappin and Webb, and a really waterproof-covered pocket book, containing pad of paper, envelopes, pencil, and pockets for correspondence, is produced by Messrs. Whitehead, Morris and Co., of Caxton House, Westminster. One of these pocket books is being preserved by a man who took part in the fighting round Ypres, having helped to deflect a bullet which would otherwise have killed the owner of the pocket book. In wars of old time, a testament or miniature portrait used to perform this service for the soldier, if the story books are to be believed, but now the pocket writing wallet has displaced such antiquities.

#### THE MONEY BELT.

The pigskin belt, either of the "blow" pattern for coin, or with pockets for paper money, or a combination of both, is an old favourite among military men, and hard to displace. It has, however, one drawback; when other waist-belts have to be buckled over it, the curve of the pigskin stiffens it and makes the edges unyielding, so that in the course of a day's march or a day's work many wearers of these belts find that they chafe uncomfortably on the hips—and this is especially likely to occur with bony men. This trouble has been obviated by a belt designed by Messrs. Mappin and Webb, which reproduces the pigskin pattern of belt in a soft leather that retains all the strength of the original belt, gives on the hips to the movements of the body, and does not stiffen on being circled as does pigskin.



## CANTEENS, OR MESS-CASES.

The canteen, or mess-box, is a matter for the consideration of the officers of a company or unit, or of their caterer, rather than that of individual officers; it has been produced in many forms and patterns, and its contents have been varied in a multitude of ways, but it may be said that the contents of the box ought to be only the things that will be really needed by the members of the mess for their meals. The limitations of active service do not admit of the carriage of luxuries for officers any more than for men, and no officers ought to attempt to carry luxuries in the way of table equipment. Inspection of a good mess-box, designed to meet the needs of half a dozen officers, revealed the following list of articles: A dozen enamelled plates, one enamelled teapot, six beakers (three-quarter pint size), one large box for the carriage of spare food, two meat dishes, one butter dish with cover for travelling security, two tin canisters, a 1½-pint wicker-covered flask, a sparklet siphon, a dozen metal-handled knives, the same number of forks, six each of dessert and tea spoons, two sauce bottles (stoneware), a pair of carvers, a tin-opener, and a corkscrew. The mess-box itself was made of three-ply wood to prevent warping, and was bound round the edges with hide—it was strong enough to stand the knocks of active service, very light, and very compact. Such mess-boxes as this are supplied either by Messrs. Thresher and Glenny, of 152, Strand, or by Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, of 185, Piccadilly. The contents include all that is absolutely necessary for table use every day, and, at the same time, there is nothing superfluous in the outfit. Further, everything with the exception of the sauce

bottles is of metal, so that fear of breakage in transit is obviated. Numbers of this particular form of mess-box have already gone out to the Expeditionary Force for field use, and the pattern seems one that cannot be improved on.

### NOT ALUMINIUM.

There can be no greater mistake than to take aluminium plates as substitutes for enamelled iron-ware in a mess-box—unless one should venture to take ordinary crockery. Every time a knife is used on an aluminium plate, it scores a line in the metal; the multitude of lines produced by continuous use gradually fills up with fat from meat, with dirt, atoms of flour—a host of things which can never be washed out entirely, and tends to render the plate unsavoury for use in course of time. Another thing is the fabric of the box itself; some boxes are constructed of wicker-work, lined with Willesden canvas or other waterproof material, but this pattern has not half the wearing qualities of hide-bound three-ply wood, and it is also far bulkier, while there is no saving in weight by the time the canvas lining has been fixed. The wicker mess-case may be considered a back number, while aluminium fittings are far better left out of consideration altogether.

### TABLE CUTLERY.

Two or three forms of combination knife, fork, and spoon have been placed on the market for campaigning use; the earliest pattern of all seems to have been a knife and fork which slid into each other for haversack carrying, by means of a recess in the handle

of each article; but the designer of this was unable to include a spoon, owing to its unhandiness in packing. Next came a pattern which combined all three articles in the form of a pocket knife; by means of slots, all three fitted together, and each closed down into its handle—a very ingenious combination, but likely to need a good deal of cleaning in its slots and crevices if used for greasy food. The latest and best pattern is a modification of the first-named; it combines a knife, fork, and spoon, and the handles slide one into another for carrying, so that the blade of the knife and the prongs of the fork are protected from incurring or doing damage, and the whole outfit is reduced to the length and breadth of the spoon. There are no hinges or slots to get out of order, and this combination may be considered the best yet produced. It is supplied by Messrs. Mappin and Webb, Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, Messrs. John Pound and Co., or Messrs. Shoolbred.

#### SPURS.

The old-time spur of D-section metal has quite gone out, and the flat-sided spur has come to take its place. The reason for the change was that the D section of metal wore the side of the boot badly, and caught painfully on the ankle at times as well. But, in its ordinary pattern, the flat-sided spur is just as bad as the D section of metal, and Messrs. Champion and Wilton, the Oxford Street saddlers, set to work to overcome the difficulty by producing a spur of which the surface that fits next the boot was slightly rounded, so that a smooth surface is presented to the boot and the edge is thrown clear and away from the ankle. In the interests of one's boots, which

may be difficult to replace on service, this kind of spur is worth getting, while if one has experienced the pain that comes from the edge of a spur chafing against the ankle, there is an even stronger incentive than the mere preservation of boots.

### III

#### MAINLY MEDICAL

THE faddist takes his own medicine chest to the area generally known as "the front," but the average man confines himself to the provision of simple remedies, such as will meet everyday disorders and supplement rather than replace hospital activities—and the average man is better off, in the long-run. Certain things there are that each man should take for himself: vaseline, for instance, is a necessity for ease in marching—or motor grease, or boracic powder—but this is so little concerned with the medicine chest that it is equivalent to saying that each man should take his own bootlaces—of which, by the way, one should carry a spare pair in some pocket. Neither the vaseline nor boracic powder nor other equivalent, nor the bootlaces, can be regarded as part of the medicine chest; they are necessities which come under the heading of ordinary equipment. A supply of concentrated aperient medicine, and a bandage—which is included in the field dressing package—are also necessities, and iodoform gauze is a useful thing to have at need. In field work, where there is no chance of removing dirt from small wounds

and of maintaining perfect personal cleanliness, blood poisoning and tetanus are very easily contracted, and the application of a strong antiseptic to any abraded surface may be the means of saving life at a later point of campaigning experience.

#### IODINE.

As a first dressing in case of a wound, hardly anything can be considered so efficacious as iodine, which, as an absolute antiseptic, prevents tetanus, gangrene, and, in fact, any form of contagious poisoning. Now, iodine, as most people know, is not soluble in water, and, further, the solution in spirit, which is the only practicable one for medical use, will not keep if in the least degree exposed to the air—it loses its antiseptic properties very soon. Messrs. Squire, the King's chemists, of Oxford Street, have got over the difficulty by putting up a solution of iodine in hermetically sealed capsules, which contain each sufficient of the solution for the dressing of any wound. The capsule itself is simply an elongated glass bulb or vessel, of which one end is made of very thin glass, so that it can be broken with a slight blow; this vessel, hermetically sealed, contains solution of iodine in spirit, and, enclosed in these glass capsules, the iodine cannot come in contact with the air until the end of the capsule is broken, and therefore cannot deteriorate. The thin end of each capsule is enclosed in absorbent cotton gauze, which protects the thin glass from accidental injury, and, when the capsule is broken for use, forms a pad into which the iodine solution soaks so that it can be painted on the wound or abraded surface of the skin without the use of an intermediary brush or other appliance. The capsules



are put up in little metal cases that can be carried in the pocket. A good form of case is that containing four of the capsules and a field dressing complete, and a general use of this form of antiseptic would go far to minimise the risk of disease that is contracted through open wounds in the field.

#### A POCKET MEDICINE CASE.

The problem of how to carry simple remedies for use in case of minor ailments in the field is one that has caused a good deal of thought and planning, and, for the most part, the medicine chest has resolved itself into a tin box containing bottles of various tablets, each tablet containing so many grains of a certain drug. Sometimes the outfit served its purpose without trouble—that is, if the owner were careful; at other times the corks of the little bottles got lost, the bottles themselves got broken, and in some cases the tablets lost their efficiency through contact with the air. At the best, the tin case was a thing which had a habit of being a nuisance or getting lost, since it had to be carried as part of the baggage, being too large to fit into the pocket, and at the same time a thing with disagreeably sharp corners and edges.

Some men swore by the real simon-pure drug in powder or liquid form, overlooking the fact that it is almost impossible to weigh and measure out drugs in the field; these men might be counted among the cranks. What was wanted was simple remedies, aperients, tonics, and the like, in a sufficiently compressed form to be carried in the pocket, made up in some way that would insure their keeping their strength and efficiency for any reasonable length of time. This problem was solved by Messrs. Savory

and Moore, the Bond Street chemists, by embodying a certain amount of practically any drug in thin sheets of gelatine, each sheet being divided into twenty-four sections, and each section forming a dose. A dozen or more of these sheets are enclosed in a leather case, which again is contained in an oiled silk cover, and thus one has a medicine chest which can be carried in the breast pocket, and takes up so little room that it hardly disturbs the flatness of the coat.

The idea of putting up drugs in this form is an old one, but, like many other useful ideas, it was allowed to languish until campaigning brought it to light again. Drugs in this form of gelatine sheets or "lamels," as the makers name them, have done good service in India and other tropical stations for years. There is no patent medicine about the gelatine preparations; the drugs conform to ordinary medical prescriptions and are of the very best quality, and in their gelatine form are so preserved that they will keep their strength for a lifetime, if need be. There is no possibility of mistaking the size of a dose, and the doses can be either taken as lozenges or dissolved in water, according to taste and the time available. For hospital use, drugs in such a form, definitely standardised in quantity and quality as they are, would take away more than half the labour that is required to make up a medical man's prescription, and would be invaluable where the time taken up in weighing and measuring is required in the performance of other tasks. In small quantities, and in the little pocket cases, these gelatine-enclosed remedies form one of the best and most portable classes of medicine chest for individual field use.

## A "TABLET" CASE.

As far as medicine in tablet form is concerned, about the best sort of pocket medicine chest is that supplied by Messrs. Rogers and Co., of 327, Oxford Street. It consists of a piece of hard wood, less than six inches in length by three inches in width, into which are bored eight circular holes; each hole is occupied by a glass tube, and a leather strap which fastens over the tops of the tubes keeps them so securely in position that one may drop and even kick the case about without injuring its contents. These contents are put up in tablet form, and are of such a nature as to supplement hospital prescriptions, and, taking ailments in the first stages, prevent serious illnesses in many cases. As in the case of the gelatine sheets referred to above, its contents are standard drugs in normal doses, packed for carrying in one of the handiest forms yet devised—and in one of the safest forms, too. This form of medicine "chest" is worthy of the attention of service men, combining cheapness, portability, and real efficiency.

## FRESH MILK.

In place of condensed milk, it is now possible to send out for hospital and invalid use absolutely fresh milk, which is sterilised and packed in hermetically sealed bottles by the Aylesbury Dairy Co., of 31, St. Petersburg Place, W., so that it will retain all its qualities and keep fresh for months, if required. Milk in this form is exceedingly useful for travellers, and for all purposes in which fresh milk is required; one bottle did the voyage to South Africa, and was kept altogether for six months without being opened,

when it was found as fresh and sweet as new milk ought to be. The fact that the preparation of the milk involves thorough sterilisation adds considerably to its value for invalid use; the price of the milk is not unduly increased by the process and packing, and the quality is well above Government standard. For shipboard use it is decidedly to be recommended, where space admits of its being carried, and on the whole it is an excellent innovation.

### A LEG REST.

Devised for the use of men wounded in the leg, this leg rest is very simple and very ingenious in construction; it is supplied by Messrs. Studd and Millington, of Conduit Street, W., and consists of a thick walking stick split into two equal parts, which are connected by bands of webbing. When closed and held together by rubber caps, the "rest" forms an ordinary walking stick; when opened and laid between two chairs, from seat to seat in a railway carriage, or in any other position of the kind that may be desired, it forms an efficient rest for a wounded limb; it can also be used as a splint in case of necessity, and altogether is a very handy adjunct to an invalid outfit.

### CHILBLAINS.

There is something ignominious in being sent down from the front to a rest camp on account of chilblains, but that fate has happened to more than one man in France since the present war began, for, though generally considered more irritating than serious, chilblains can become sufficiently serious to incapaci-

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tate the sufferer. A very old remedy for chilblains in the unbroken state, and a very good one, consists of about four ounces of brandy in which a cube of camphor has been broken up and well shaken. The camphor does not quite dissolve in the brandy, but remains in crystals, and the effect of this mixture, well rubbed in, has been found very efficacious in many cases. If used in time it will generally effect a cure, but it must not, of course, be used after the chilblain has broken.

#### PARASITES—AND THE BEST REMEDY.

Polite society ignores such things as fleas and their even uglier allies, and considers that their very names are beyond mention in ordinary conversation. In war, however, one leaves politeness of this kind behind, and the flea and his fellows hold revel and incur many curses. When a man is beyond the chance of a wash for three weeks or thereabouts—well, the result may be left to the imagination, but a satisfactory remedy for that result would be welcomed by many men. It is one of the trials of campaigning, and to miss it out on the ground of mere squeamishness would not be fitting to a survey of military equipment and needs.

Sundry remedies, or preventives, for the various forms of insect pest that afflict man when he cannot keep himself and his clothing as clean as he would under ordinary circumstances, have been devised. Nine out of ten of these remedies have paraffin as a base, and the majority of them depend solely on paraffin for their efficacy, with some added ingredient to disguise the smell. Some of them are nearly all disguise and very little paraffin, and a few are made

up of ingredients which, as soldiers put it, merely stun the parasites without killing them. The best preventive and cure combined, on the whole, is simply paraffin, rubbed on one's clothes, and especially on underclothing; it need not be applied in such quantities as to render the wearer of the clothing uncomfortable—the amount is best determined by experience. No substitute, whatever its advertisers may say, is nearly as effective.

### RESPIRATORS.

The pattern of respirator originally recommended by the War Office consisting of layers of gauze alternating with layers of cotton wool, was found defective, for as soon as the layers of cotton wool of which the respirator was composed became moist, they were found to clog breathing almost entirely, and in any case render it a difficult matter. The respirators now in use consist of some fabric containing alkalies, which neutralise the action of chlorine and of acids, and, if a man is in any degree "gassed," ammonia is given as a restorative.

A respirator has been produced by Messrs. Rogers, of 327, Oxford Street, which combines these good qualities, and renders the separate carrying of ammonia no longer a necessity. It consists of a pad of material through which a man can breathe for as long as the respirator exists, fitted for adjustment over the mouth and nostrils, and containing chemicals to counteract the effects of suffocating gases. The fabric of the respirator consists of several layers, the outer of which contain chemicals to absorb and neutralise acids, chlorine, and chlorine and bromine compounds; the inner layers contain a compound

which, in contact with the moisture of the breath, liberates ammonia in small quantities, and this, when breathed into the lungs, acts as an antidote to the chlorine or acid fumes. This pattern of respirator has been thoroughly tested in chemical works, and has been found to answer its purpose admirably. The full action of the layers of impregnated gauze is not set up until the respirator has been in use for a few minutes, but it can be made immediately effective by applying a little water to the outer surface of the fabric, and rubbing this well in, which brings the chemicals into contact and reaction. The respirator should not be dipped in water, but only the outside should be wetted. All its chemicals are non-poisonous, and the respirator is effective for several hours' use—in fact, for as long as a slight odour of ammonia is perceptible to the wearer. Even after the chemical action has ceased, the respirator is still of value as an "air-filter" to its wearer.

Mention must be made of the very ingenious way in which this safeguard is made to fit the face of the wearer. Realising that no two men's faces are alike in shape, and that the pattern which fits over one man's nostrils is of no use to another man, the designer of this respirator fitted it along the top edge with a length of flexible wire, which, on putting the respirator on, can be bent by the wearer to fit his own face and prevent unfiltered air from reaching either his mouth or his nostrils. The wire is sufficiently stiff to retain the respirator in position for as long as is required, and sufficiently flexible to admit of its being bent to shape for as many times as the article is used. On the whole, this is a thoroughly practical and efficient safeguard against poisonous gases, and

as such is suited for use not only on active service, but at any point in which the danger of contact with poisonous gases exists.

#### IV

### CLOTHING

#### REGULATION CLOTHING.

The regulation tunic is of a pattern which admits of little variation, and the only point which officers should bear in mind in going to a tailor for a tunic—as far as the make is concerned, is that plenty of room must be allowed all round. A closely fitting tunic may be, and often is, smart in appearance, but appearance goes for nothing on active service, and the main points are that a man shall be as comfortable as possible as regards the fit of his uniform, and that he shall have clothing suited to the work he has to perform. The chief thing about winter tunic material is that it shall be all wool—its actual thickness is a matter for the wearer's taste. Some firms, notably that of Messrs. Robinson and Cleaver and Messrs. Samuel Brothers, have rainproofed woollen materials for the making of tunics and breeches, without in any way adding to the weight or detracting from the wearing qualities of the garments when the material is made up; as an additional protection against wet, this form of material is eminently satisfactory.

For summer campaigning wear, when the thinnest material compatible with the requisite strength for active service is required, one of the best patterns of woollen khaki cloth is that supplied by Messrs. Pope



and Bradley, of Bond Street. It is rather "canvassy" in appearance, and incredibly strong when its weight and thickness are taken into account. It will stand all the strains that active service involves, and will wear just as long as thicker and far warmer materials, while at the same time it will insure coolness and comfort for its wearer. The material in question has been submitted to sufficient practical tests to assure one of its claim to consideration, and, for such climatic conditions as the summer campaigning in Northern France is likely to involve, it will make up into an excellent, hard-wearing, cool tunic.

A dozen or more of well-known firms have specialised in the production of officers' uniforms; among them, as firms thoroughly to be recommended, may be mentioned Messrs. Desborough, of 170, Piccadilly; Messrs. Hazel and Co., of 51, Berners Street, W., Messrs. Shoolbred, of Tottenham Court Road, Messrs. Pope and Bradley, already mentioned, Messrs. West and Sons, of 151, New Bond Street, Messrs. Robinson and Cleaver, of Regent Street, Messrs. Samuel Brothers, of Ludgate Hill and Oxford Street, and Messrs. Nicoll and Co., of Regent Street. All these firms produce reliable goods, and may be depended on for service clothing.

#### FOR THE DARDANELLES.

With regard to the Dardanelles campaign, no official information has been given as to the class of clothing that should be taken, and consequently a number of officers and men, finding themselves suddenly called on for service in this quarter, have been rather at a loss as to what to take in addition to

or in place of their ordinary kit. Several suggestions have been put forward which have done more harm than good; the principal thing to remember is that the less kit one takes the better, so far as that principle is compatible with comfort, and then it should be remembered that there is little need to take precautions against cold, for that is the last thing one may expect in the vicinity of the Dardanelles during the summer months, and for as long as the campaign is likely to last.

First of all, the officer who has already been fitted out with service uniform should take at least one ordinary suit, for wear on shipboard and for general use. As to additions in this, one firm, that of Messrs. Thresher and Glenny, has specialised in the production of clothing for the campaign, and out of the experience of officers actually serving in the Dardanelles campaign they recommend the following: one pair of cord knickers or breeches—breeches cut on riding pattern, for preference—a pair of drill “slacks,” two drill tunics, with ringed detachable buttons and rank badges for the shoulder straps, and—this last an optional item, but very desirable—a pair of drill “shorts” for camp use. And that, as far as clothing is concerned, is about all the additional stuff one need consider as necessary. A thoroughly waterproof outer garment, with detachable woollen lining, or else a waterproof and British warm, should be taken in preference to the regulation overcoat.

Both the breeches or knickers for this special work, and the tunic, slacks, and shorts, should be of totally different material from that in use by men on the western front, and the class of stuff that Messrs. Thresher and Glenny provide—and that is the most

suitable yet provided for this climate and work—is more like the Indian service drill and cord materials than anything else. It is a cotton fabric, of remarkable strength, inconspicuous in colour; both the cord for breeches and the material for tunic and slacks are washable, with the advantage of being English made, and it is safe to say that when made up they will wear out more than the Dardanelles campaign, and will be available for their wearers when that peninsula is no longer the scene of fighting.

Old Indian soldiers will recognise the materials from this vague description; others may take them on trust, for they are of first-class quality, and better suited than any other to their purpose.

#### BREECHES.

A good many officers, on getting fitted out in the matter of breeches, reason that, if they go to their own tailor, who has always served them well in other matters, they will be fitted out to their satisfaction. This, however, does not follow by any means; the business of breeches cutting and making is as different from ordinary tailoring as that of trunk-making is different from boot-making, and it does not follow that, because a tailoring establishment is capable of turning out ordinary clothing, it is a good place for breeches. One should select a firm that really makes a speciality of breeches-making—a good many say that they do this, but few can live up to the claim, as the wearers of some breeches find to their cost. The difference between well cut and badly cut breeches is not only that between comfort and discomfort; it is also the difference between agility and clumsiness, quick movement and slow; it is a difference that

counts in campaigning to a far greater extent than most people realise.

The tailor who advertises a cheap line in riding breeches will make up a pair of breeches out of very good quality material, and usually they look well—at first. They may be quite all right for the man who does two or three hours riding per day and then changes into the kind of clothing that suits him best for his hours out of the saddle. It must be remembered, however, that the man on active service may have to wear his riding breeches for a week without a chance of changing his clothes, and may have to sleep in them every night as well as wearing them during the day. For this sort of work only the best and most carefully cut breeches will give even comparative comfort; a slight ruck inside the knee or alongside the thigh, which for ordinary riding would pass almost unnoticed, develops into a rasp which involves a patch of raw flesh and consequent torture in the saddle.

One may recommend a few firms with confidence as real breeches-makers; noteworthy among them are Messrs. Desborough, Messrs. H. J. Nicoll and Co., Messrs. Thomas and Sons, of Brook Street, Messrs. Thresher and Glenny, and Messrs. West and Sons, of Bond Street. There are plenty of others, of course, but any one of these mentioned—their addresses have been indicated a page or two back—will cut and make breeches that will *fit*, and will give satisfaction to their wearers in this, one of the most important matters in connection with clothing for service wear.

#### WATERPROOFS.

With regard to an outer coat designed to keep out the wet, the coat known as “rainproof” may be

obtained either from Messrs. Aquascutum, of Regent Street, Messrs. Burberry and Co., of the Haymarket, or Messrs. Samuel Brothers, of Ludgate Hill and Oxford Street; these three firms specialise in the production of rainproof coats. The waterproof coat must be so in fact as well as in name, and this is just as important in the case of the coat as in that of the ground-sheet or sleeping-valise. Further, with one exception, known as the "stormproof," of which more later, the waterproofing should be in the material, and not on it. Diversity of pattern and material are more apparent in waterproof and rainproof outer garments than in any other article of clothing, and in the following pages an attempt will be made to consider some of the best campaigning patterns.

#### THE "TRENCH COAT."

First of all, we may consider a garment designed specially by Messrs. Thresher and Glenny to meet the requirements of this particular campaign in France, named by them the "trench coat," and modified by means of interchangeable linings to meet every change of climate consequent on the succession of the seasons—one of the best garments that has been designed for service during the course of this war. The coat itself, independently of its linings, consists of a rainproof outer material, under which is oiled silk, rendering the coat thoroughly waterproof under all circumstances. Belted, and fitted with a collar sufficiently large to protect the neck and back of the head fully, the coat itself, independently of its interchangeable linings, will keep its wearer dry in the worst weather that he can encounter. It is not a



“stylish” garment, being designed exclusively for use; it is very light, packs compactly, and wears well.

As a winter coat, the trench coat was fitted with a detachable lining of lambskin, which was windproof—as is the outer coat itself, and as warm a material as could be obtained, short of an expensive fur—and the makers would fit any fur lining in place of the lambskin, if desired. In this form, the coat gave full protection from wet, and kept its wearer warm as well. With the coming of the spring and summer months, the lambskin lining was found too heavy, so it was replaced by a lining which weighed under two pounds, and yet secured more warmth to its wearer than any ordinary blanket would. The two linings, owing to the standardising of the make of the coat, were interchangeable on the same garment, and either could be worn separately from the coat as sleeping kit or dressing jacket, if required.

Later, a third form of lining was devised, which made of the trench coat a complete sleeping bag and bivouac—and this third form of lining is interchangeable with the other two, and can be fitted on to existing trench coats. It consists of a light but very warm blanket, shaped at the shoulders to fit the wearer of the coat, and provided with studs so that it fixes inside the coat as a lining for day wear, half of the blanket being doubled up into the back of the coat. The blanket is light in itself, so that the weight of this as a coat lining is practically the same as any ordinary coat lining, apart from its other uses. When required as a blanket for bivouac use, the studs which hold the blanket doubled in position for day wear are unfastened, without removing the coat, and then the blanket falls down round the wearer's feet, without

removing the coat, so that it can be wrapped round the feet and legs just like an ordinary blanket. A waterproof bag, lined with oiled silk, is pulled up over the feet until it comes over the lower edge of the outer coat; the collar of the coat is turned up, and with a waterproof hood, which buttons on to the coat collar, the wearer of this coat and bag is independent of any other form of bivouac, and thoroughly comfortable, no matter how wet the ground or weather may be.

### SIMPLICITY.

The whole business of adjusting this form of coat-bivouac sounds much more complex than it is in reality. I have seen the coat and bag adjusted for use in this way, and in about three minutes from the time of beginning operations the wearer was comfortably settled on the floor, securely protected against everything in the way of wet and cold. Conversely, the business of getting one's feet out of the bag and fastening up the blanket in the back of the coat for day wear is equally simple, while, if the coat is required for use unlined, the blanket lining can be folded away in the bag that covers the feet when the coat is in use as a bivouac, and will remain clean and perfectly dry for future use. A more compact form of waterproof coat and sleeping kit could not be imagined, and this form of trench coat for summer wear is quite equal in design and usefulness to the winter coat from which it has been evolved. It is equally well suited for the use of all arms of the service, and either in trench work or on the march is a coat worth having; and the interchangeable linings, added to the thoroughly waterproof character

of the coat itself, render it a garment that the most captious cannot cavil at.

#### A "PACK" COAT.

I believe this form of waterproof coat was first designed for the use of certain members of the H.A.C. by Messrs. J. W. Elvery and Co., of Conduit Street, W., and in any case, this firm continues to make it. It is a light waterproof of rubbered fabric, weighing about three pounds, and designed with a pleat at the back which admits of its being worn over the ordinary infantryman's pack without discomfort. For mounted men, this pleat forms a riding skirt and adds greatly to the ventilating qualities of the coat—qualities which are so desirable in the case of rubbered waterproofs—while the coat is light enough for a dismounted man to carry, and roomy enough to insure his comfort when wearing it, either with or without a pack. It is a good quality article, and is absolutely waterproof—a point on which too much care cannot be taken in the selection of an outer coat. The extra amount of material in this coat, too, admits of a man wrapping himself up in it for sitting on wet ground, and keeping thoroughly dry in the worst possible weather. Its principal virtue, however, is that it will keep dry a dismounted man and his pack—the purpose for which it was designed—and weighs only three pounds.

Very much the same sort of coat is manufactured by Messrs. Shoolbred and Co., of Tottenham Court Road, but in this case the pleat is not of such large dimensions, and the coat itself is made of somewhat stouter and heavier fabric. Like the one previously described, it is made of rubbered fabric, and is abso-

lutely waterproof. It is designed more for cavalry wear, with a belt at the back which holds the coat in to ordinary dimensions for walking, and the belt can be buckled in front if desired. When riding, this belt is unfastened at the back, and the coat, being decidedly more roomy than the ordinary pattern, gives more ventilation. There is sufficient material in this coat for use as an emergency ground-sheet, and the stout fabric of which it is made renders it possible to use the coat for such a purpose without damaging it.

### THE CAPE.

The cape form of coat is not desirable for service use, for the time may come when the wearer needs all the freedom of arms that can be had, and then the man with a sleeved coat has the advantage over a man with a mere cape. In the fitting of a waterproof or rainproof coat, particular care should be taken to see that full play is allowed to the arms, and if the garment can be worn for a time before actually setting out on active service, so much the better. A cape, which will keep its wearer dry as far down as the knees, and makes no pretence at being a coat or taking the place of a coat, is a very useful kit adjunct for cyclists and motor cyclists, and such a cape is supplied by Messrs. J. W. Elvery and Co.—one that was designed on practical lines by an officer actually serving at the present time. It is not supposed to take all the work of waterproofing, as a coat does; it is designed to cover one almost to the knees, allowing plenty of freedom to the arms and plenty of room inside, and is provided with its own fastening strap so that it can be attached to the waist-belt or other

part of one's equipment when it is rolled up. It rolls into a very small compass indeed, and its weight is a matter of ounces. This particular cape has found many patrons among men actually in the firing line, and its extreme portability is a great point in its favour.

#### A WATERPROOFED RAINPROOF.

The principal drawback attaching to almost every "rainproof" coat is that, if one goes out on a wet day with a haversack or something of the sort slung across one's shoulder over the coat, the probabilities are that by the end of the day the rainproof coat will be found to have kept out the wet at all points except at the shoulder that has been rubbed by the sling of the haversack—or whatever the strap may be that is passed over the shoulder. Apart from this, the man with a rainproof has some advantage over the man with a rubbered mackintosh, for the former has more ventilation than the latter—though this all depends on the way in which the mackintosh is made. This rubbing business, and the likelihood of rain soaking through the shoulders of a rainproof, led Messrs. Desborough, the tailors, of 170, Piccadilly, to waterproof the shoulders and down as far as the armpits of the rainproof coat, and to do this in such a way as to add no more than half a pound to the weight of the garment. The result is virtually a waterproof with the lightness and ventilation of a rainproof, and, as for the "rainproof" qualities of the coat, apart from the waterproofed portion, the material of which this coat is made kept a man dry in France in the campaigning area—and out in the wet at that—



through the worst winter months of the western campaign.

#### A LINED WATERPROOF.

The idea of lining rainproof coats is by no means a new one, and also the idea of fitting detachable linings to waterproof coats is not new, but, until this war developed the idea of waterproofing and warmth combined in one garment, few makers of waterproofs thought of lining them permanently in order to get rid of the clamminess of a rubbered fabric and make for warmth. A coat is supplied by Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, of 185, Piccadilly, which combines absolute watertightness with warmth by means of a fleecy woollen lining fitted to a good rubbered fabric—it can be had with detachable lining if desired, but this adds to the weight of the coat considerably, and the lining does not fit quite so well as that permanently fixed in the coat. I have given one of these coats a personal trial under bad winter conditions of weather, and have found it all that could be desired in wet and cold; it fulfils the double purpose of waterproof and warm coat, and is well ventilated, and not unduly heavy. The proofing is of the very best quality, really proof against a soaking rain for any length of time; the lining is a light, soft fleece, which altogether takes away the “feel” generally associated with waterproof garments, makes the coat comfortably warm for night or winter wear, and is so light that on a dry, cold day it is preferable to a cloth coat; the fact of its being windproof adds greatly to its warmth. It is about the best all-purposes coat that one can obtain, more especially for mounted men, though it is suited to infantry use as well.

## “STORMPROOF.”

The main difference between ordinary rubbered waterproof coats and those known as “stormproof” consists in the latter having the rubber proofing *outside* the supporting fabric, instead of being sandwiched in between two layers of supporting fabric, as is the case with ordinary waterproofs. The difference caused by the stormproof method is greater than at first appears; all wearers of waterproofs know that, although the garment they are wearing may keep out any amount of rain, yet the outer layer of cloth of which the garment is composed holds wet, and is difficult to get dry in a short space of time. With the rubber proofing outside, however—as in the case of the stormproof—the rain that strikes on the coat immediately trickles off, leaving the coat as dry as before, for there is no outer cloth surface to hold water and add to the weight of the coat as well as making it uncomfortable. The only point on which one needs to be assured is that of quality—the wearing quality of the supporting fabric, and the proof quality of the rubber that is designed to keep out the wet; this latter must be of the very best quality, for it is not protected as when placed between two layers of fabric, and only the best rubber will stand being placed outside as in the case of the stormproof fabric. Such a coat as this, light in weight and so made as to stand any amount of wear, is supplied by Messrs. J. W. Elvery with detachable waist-band. It can be had made to order if desired, which is a very decided advantage, and it forms an absolutely certain protection against the driving rains of spring and summer, while it is strong enough for use as a ground sheet if required in that capacity. It is a coat specially

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
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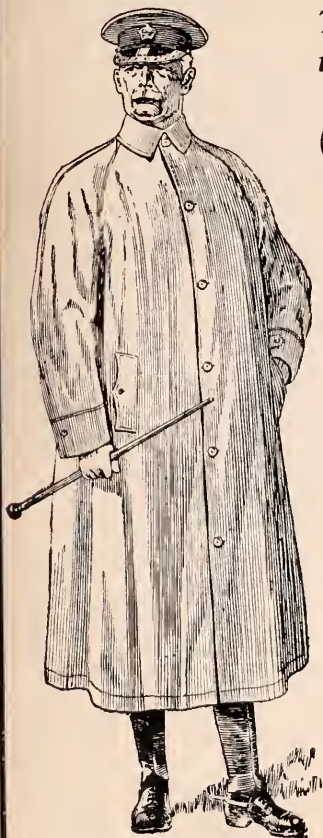
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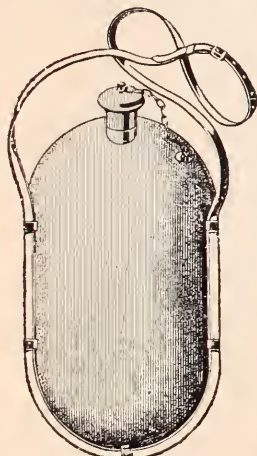


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worthy of consideration by cavalrymen, and is an ideal garment for all motorists.

### THREE IN ONE.

Very nearly equivalent to the summer pattern of the " trench coat " is a waterproof specially lined for summer wear by Messrs. J. W. Elvery and Co. The chosen waterproof material is of the thinnest and best quality obtainable, so that, with a weight of little over two pounds in the largest sizes, one is kept dry at all times; the lining is of fine " camel-hair " fleece, made in summer weight, so that it comes out at less than two pounds weight when made up; it is detachable, and is made as a totally separate garment, and thus it is useful as a dressing-gown, or sort of coat for lounging about camp when off duty, or as a blanket for night use, and it is fitted with its own set of buttons in addition to the set which fastens it to the waterproof outer coat. There are thus three garments in one: a very light waterproof for summer wear, unlined; a lined waterproof coat, warm as any man could desire, to wear in cold winds and for night work; and a good, loose, warm coat for camp wear when required—and the combined weight of all three is less than five pounds.

### A RIDING APRON.

The same firm, Messrs. Elvery, is responsible for the design—it is in reality an old idea revived—in which a waterproof apron is combined with a cavalry waterproof. The coat itself is of the ordinary cavalry pattern, roomy, with riding flap at the back, strap and buckle to take the strain off the buttons when



riding, and all the rest of the ordinary fitments. Attached to the left side is a flap which, when not in use, buttons back under the coat and adds about eight ounces to the weight of the garment. When required for riding, this flap is unfastened from its retaining buttons and brought to the front, when its loose side buttons on to the right side of the overcoat, just inside the point where the ordinary buttons down the front are situated. The flap then covers the knees and all the body up to the waist, so that a rider can keep his legs perfectly dry, even though he wants to unfasten his coat for the sake of ventilation. In use, this riding apron transforms the coat into something like a lady's skirt in effect, though not in appearance; it affords plenty of room for all sorts of movements of the body, and can be made to cover the wearer in as high as the neck, if desired. It was first made to the design of a cavalry officer serving at the front, and thus, as the idea of a practical man, has already been extensively copied. When the apron is not in use the coat is just as are others, as far as appearance is concerned.

#### A PLAIN COAT.

The subject of waterproofs cannot be dismissed without mention of a plain, unlined waterproof, made either in cavalry or infantry pattern by Messrs. Anderson, Anderson and Co., of Queen Victoria Street and Cockspur Street. The coat itself is roomy in make and light in weight; it is fitted with outside pockets instead of the slit pockets which, in some makes, let through the wet to the garments which the coat is supposed to protect; it is leather-bound to prevent the wet from creeping up from the bottom

edge of the coat or from the ends of the sleeves, and it is, in every respect, a serviceable garment for campaigning use. I have made a personal test of this coat in prolonged and very heavy rains, and have found it well-ventilated, light in wear, and thoroughly effective in keeping its wearer dry, no matter what wind or rain there may be. For a plain, one-purpose waterproof it is a thoroughly effective garment, designed mainly for summer use, and thoroughly fitted to its purpose.

#### A RAINPROOF.

In the matter of rainproof overcoats, one of the best is that made specially for the use of military officers by Messrs. Aquascutum, Ltd., of Regent Street. It is of very finely woven, well-proofed, and durable material, and it will keep out the wet for day wear as well as any rainproof on the market. It is not intended to be used for sleeping on wet ground, nor is it serviceable in keeping out the water if a lot of heavy equipment is slung outside it, but, with these exceptions, it is a good water resister, and has in its favour the fact that it is ventilated far more than any rubbered waterproof could be. It is a service coat, made on service lines, and as a rainproof is worthy of every recommendation.

#### UNDERCLOTHING.

In the matter of underclothing generally, practically every man swears by a different article, and swears at all but his own particular choice. One can, however, indicate one fallacy to which certain men are liable, and that is a belief in cotton under-

wear on account of its apparent coolness, as compared with woollen underwear. In reality, wool can be made up so that it is just as cool as cotton, and it is free of the insuperable drawback attaching to cotton—the lack of any absorbent property, and the inability to dispose of perspiration. Cotton underwear would be all very well for campaigning purposes *if* its wearers were able to remove their underclothing every night and put on sleeping suits; as it is, however, a man has to wear the same underclothing day and night, in most cases. If it happens to be cotton, it will get soaked in perspiration in the course of a summer day, and, when night comes, it will be clammy and clinging and dangerous, as well as uncomfortable to its wearer. The only form of cotton underwear that is admissible is the cellular stuff, and even that is not so good as light and preferably woollen underwear.

The problem of underwear is complicated by the fact that there are two definite and different areas of action to be considered. The man who is fitting out for the Dardanelles wants totally different stuff from the man who intends to go or expects to be sent to Flanders or France. Then again, some men cannot wear ordinary woollen underwear in summer owing to its irritant effect—and as a rule these men have been unfortunate in their choice of woollen stuffs, for it is possible to get pure woollen stuffs which are not irritant. Least irritant of all, and most suitable of all for summer use, is silk underwear, which has all the lightness of cotton, more than the smoothness and non-irritant quality of the finest linen, and more than the warmth and absorbent properties of wool, weight for weight. It is expensive, of course, but

well worth the extra expense; there is nothing that will wear like silk, and nothing that will give such comfort as silk. A good variant, and a somewhat cheaper one, is a mixture of silk and wool. Either the pure silk or the silk and wool underwear can be had made to order from Messrs. Turnbull and Asser, of Jermyn Street, and, in fact, of most good West End outfitting firms. Mixtures of silk and cotton are not so much to be recommended as pure silk or silk and wool.

#### CELLULAR UNDERCLOTHING.

The first idea in connection with cellular clothing was the provision of ventilation combined with warmth, and the cellular make of underclothing, woollen in substance, has much to recommend it. It is cool when coolness is desired, owing to its almost perfect ventilating properties; at the same time there is in it enough of "body" for the material to be warm when warmth is required. Ventilation and substance combine to maintain the natural temperature of the body, and for those who find ordinary woollen underwear impossible during the summer months, and for any reason decline to transfer to silk, this cellular woollen underwear ought to appeal strongly, for it is non-irritant and most comfortable. I am considering these things solely with a view to their campaigning value, and, cellular or solid, disapprove of cotton as a fabric, though a cotton and wool mixture is admissible. Cotton alone becomes unpleasant by reason of perspiration, with the limited facilities that exist for the changing of underclothing under active service conditions. It is sometimes

urged against wool that it harbours vermin when these become unavoidable, but collective experience goes to prove that cotton is just as bad as wool in this respect, and that when one is "in for it" on this point, the material worn makes little difference. With regard to the make of cellular underclothing, Messrs. West and Co., of New Bond Street, have specialised in the production of goods of this material, and will make to order and give thorough satisfaction.

#### "SOLARO."

A fabric specially made for tropical use is "Solaro," the name given to the process by which woollen or other fabrics are given a red inner surface, which resists sun-rays in the way that a red screen keeps those same rays from a photographic plate, increasing the power of resistance to sun and heat to the highest possible degree, and rendering the fabrics so treated cool for wear in the hottest weather. The process has been applied to coatings, shirts, material for caps, and practically every form of clothing, with eminently satisfactory results in every case. It has been applied, for instance, to a species of woollen shirting material produced by Messrs. Studd and Millington, of Conduit Street, in the form of a red thread which runs on the inside of a thin, khaki shirting. The dye of the red threads in this material is thoroughly fixed, so that the shirts are washable and will not stain the skin, while the quality of the material itself is absolutely the best procurable, and the shirts themselves are as cool as it is possible to get for wear in strong sunlight.



## A RIDING SHIRT.

Most men who ride will appreciate how the tail of one's shirt creeps up in the course of a long day's riding, and forms a sort of false chest in the back in the matter of a few hours. A shirt has been designed for mounted men by Messrs. Turnbull and Asser, of Jermyn Street, which overcomes this form of discomfort. In appearance it is an ordinary khaki shirt, regulation pattern to the last buttonhole, but when one examines one of these garments it will be found that the tail is of extra length and has buttonholes at the end, the idea being to bring the tail up between the legs and button it on the front, so that it cannot possibly slip up behind to any extent. In addition to the enhanced comfort for mounted men, such a shirt gives protection from chill in the region of the abdomen, and it is a thoroughly sound and well-made article of kit.

## VESTS.

Leather, fur, oiled silk, woollen materials, and many other fabrics have been pressed into service in the manufacture of vests for service use. Fur may be ruled out at the start as liable to harbour vermin to an excessive degree if worn inside the tunic; other materials deserve separate consideration, for even in the summer months motorists and airmen have need of warm vests. For these latter classes there is nothing so hard-wearing, and at the same time thoroughly windproof, as leather, and consequently the leather vest has come to stay. Messrs. Robinson and Cleaver have contrived a pattern of leather vest which, in addition to its windproof qualities, is

sufficiently waterproof to stand a soaking wet tunic rubbing against it for hours, and yet be free of any suspicion of pulpiness, such as attaches to ordinary leather garments under the influence of continued rain. This vest is made with sleeves, and is sufficiently well ventilated for motoring and aviation purposes, as well as for cavalry wear if required, while for winter use it is suited to the wear of all arms of the service.

#### THE "O. W." VEST.

Under the name of the "O. W. Cuirass," a leather vest was placed on the market recently which had as perfect ventilation as it was possible to get, and yet retained all the warmth and windproof qualities of leather wear. This was achieved by making the front and back of the vest in two separate pieces, which were connected by straps under the arms, and by means of these straps could be pulled together in a way that would fit any figure. This form of vest is obtainable from the O. W. Cuirass Syndicate, of 33, Foubert's Place, Regent Street, and, while affording efficient protection against wind and cold, is so well ventilated that an infantryman can march in it without discomfort. It is made in three different patterns, both lined and unlined, and forms excellent winter gear.

#### SILK VESTS.

Messrs. Dunhills, of 2, Conduit Street, W., have specialised in the production of aviation and motoring clothing, and they are responsible for the production of a leather vest which, made on the pattern of the

tunic, and fitting under that garment, fulfils all the requirements of the motorist or aviator. At the same time they manufacture an oiled silk vest, lined with fleece, which is far lighter than leather, is thoroughly windproof and warm, and is ventilated as far as that is compatible with the properties of oiled silk. It has an advantage over the ordinary leather vest in that it is thoroughly waterproof as well as windproof, but if long wear is desired it might be better to get a leather vest, since oiled silk is not notorious for long life under active service conditions. Still, the man who needs an oiled silk vest, probably motor cyclist, motorist, or aviator, does not subject his clothing to the same amount of wear nor the same class of wear as the man in the trenches, and this oiled silk lined vest is specially made to fit his requirements.

#### UNLINED OILED SILK.

Messrs. Elvery have produced an oiled silk cardigan, as it is called rather than a vest, which is designed for protection against wet rather than for warmth, though of course, as this is absolutely windproof, it is warm as well as wet-resisting. It can be worn either over or under the tunic, as suits the wearer, and when not in use can be crumpled up and thrust in the pocket or haversack—its weight is a matter of very few ounces, and its bulk negligible. Owing to the fragility of oiled silk, there is an advantage in connection with this garment in that it can be worn under the tunic, and thus will keep its wearer dry and at the same time is protected against the accidental injuries to which oiled silk is liable in wear.

## THE BRITISH WARM.

Regarding this garment, there is little to be said. Any good tailor can make it, and the only point is that of the material from which it is made. Some makers "rainproof" the outer fabric, and this is desirable, but not necessary. The object of the British warm is warmth, pure and simple; it is designed to supplement the greatcoat or waterproof coat in case of need, and is not intended to serve any other purpose. It should be made so as to come well down beyond the edge of the tunic, and should be as light as possible in weight, and as inconspicuous as possible in colour—and that is about all that there is to be said about it, a hybrid garment which every man may have made with little regard for sealed patterns, and almost as little regard for fit and style. If the "trench coat" already described be taken on service, the British warm is not a necessity. In any case, so long as one has a good overcoat designed both for warmth and keeping out the wet, the British warm is a luxury, an accessory to kit rather than a really necessary article.

## V

## GLOVES, HEADGEAR, AND CAMP KIT

IN the matter of ordinary riding or other gloves, the patterns are so far standardised that no recommendations or descriptions are necessary. I have found Messrs. Desborough, of 170, Piccadilly, an excellent firm for ordinary riding gloves, and there are dozens of other places just as good.

For winter work, gloves are a necessity for all ranks on active service. Some kit furnishers recommend mitts, but these are a snare and a delusion, since all the freedom of the fingers that can be obtained is required when wearing the gloves. Lined gloves are thoroughly warm and comfortable, but they tend to render the hands clumsy when handling a weapon, either a firearm or any other kind, while unlined gloves, after the hands have grown accustomed to them, give practically as much freedom to the fingers as is obtained with the bare hands, and the warmth of lined gloves, unless the weather is perfectly arctic in quality, is very little greater than that of the unlined articles after the first ten minutes of wear. A very good glove for field-work is made by the O. W. Cuirass Syndicate, of 33, Foubert's Place, Regent Street, in the form of a fingerless mitt, but with a flap which folds down from the tips of the fingers inside the palm, and is fastened for warmth by a stud in the palm of the glove. When it is required to free the fingers, this stud is unfastened and the fingers are bared, leaving the rest of the hand covered and the flap laid over on the back of the hand.

#### MOTOR GLOVES.

Suited for motorists and aviators only, since the rubber of which they are mainly composed will not stand ordinary service work, are special gloves made by Messrs. Dunhill, of Conduit Street. They are made with gauntlet cuffs, which are of rubber lined with soft fleece; the palms and the fingers, where the hard wear would come, are of soft, flexible kid, and the gloves are fleece-lined throughout. For ordinary field-work such gloves would not stand a week's wear,



but for motoring or aircraft work they are ideal. The rubber coating of the gloves, where all the wind pressure comes, is sufficiently non-conducting of heat to assure perfect warmth, while the kid of the palm and inside the fingers assures flexibility, and the lining affords sufficient warmth even for motor cyclists.

#### WATERPROOF.

About the only really waterproof glove that is at the same time strong enough to stand riding wear and ordinary field-work is one sold either by Messrs. Aquascutum, Ltd., of Regent Street, or by Messrs. Thomas and Sons, of Brook Street. This is a gauntleted glove, with leather palm and leather inside the fingers, and with a back and gauntlet of really waterproofed fabric, so that it will stand any amount of wet without getting soaked through. It is sufficiently flexible to leave the fingers as free as a glove can, and, in brief, it is the first really serviceable, fully waterproofed glove that has been produced, except for such rubber gloves as those mentioned above, designed solely for motoring and aviation use. One could drive with a pair of these gloves without damaging them, which is more than could be said of any other waterproof glove.

#### MOTORING HEADGEAR.

Specially suited for the use of military motorists and airmen is a tightly fitting cap of oiled silk, lined with thin yet warm material, with fur covering for the ears and back of the neck, and designed to fit under a peaked field-service cap. This latter cap, in its normal state, affords very little protection against

wet and wind, while, even when a waterproof cover is fitted, it leaves the rain to trickle down the back of the neck in most uncomfortable fashion. The under-cap of oiled silk—a production of Messrs. Dunhill—does away with all these difficulties, affording both warmth and thorough protection from wet, while it will also serve as a sleeping-cap for winter use.

#### THE WATERPROOF FIELD-SERVICE CAP.

Many firms have specialised in the production of “soft” field-service caps of waterproofed materials, the principal idea in connection with the absence of stiffening being that the ordinary cap, when wet, gets its cover tightened over the stiffening, and then the top of the cap forms a sort of heliograph for giving away the position of its wearer in the field. Soft field-service caps for winter wear, constructed of waterproof materials, are supplied by most of the leading outfitters. Messrs. Studd and Millington supply a cap which will fold or crumple into very small compass, and that can be had either in the ordinary pattern or with a flap to pull down and cover the ears and back of the neck. Although a “soft” cap, this pattern will retain its shape indefinitely, while another advantage is that it cannot get on its top the greasy patch that comes of long wear on most field-service caps. It is a well-made and thoroughly serviceable article, smart enough for parade wear, and tough enough in all respects for campaigning work.

#### A CAP COVER.

Most of the headgear designed to act as a sleeping cap and protection for the ears and back of the neck—

not the soft field-service cap, but the larger head-covering with a back curtain extending down over the collar of the coat—has been designed so as to fit the head closely, obviously in order that it may be worn instead of, rather than with, the field-service cap. But the best, in many respects, of this class of head-covering and neck protector is that supplied by Messrs. J. W. Elvery and Co., of Conduit Street; it is a sort of “Balaclava” helmet made to fit over the field-service cap, fastening round the neck and falling well over the coat collar so as to keep out the wet from the back of the neck. It is made in good water-proofed material, is light and compact, and folds up into a mere handful of stuff that can be thrust in one’s pocket or haversack and carried without difficulty. Warmth and lightness are combined with good ventilating qualities in this class of “Balaclava.”

#### SUMMER CAPS.

One of the best field-service caps for summer wear, made without back curtain of any kind, is that supplied by Messrs. West and Co., of New Bond Street, and made with light “sunproof” top and a species of stiffening to its band which adds to its ventilating qualities. It is very lightly and soundly made, well-balanced, hard-wearing, and “grease-proof”—this last a point worthy of consideration. A cap of equal merit, but with detachable back curtain, is supplied by Messrs. Studd and Millington, of Conduit Street; in this latter pattern the back curtain for protection of the spine from sun-rays is made of “Solaro” fabric, and fastens on to the back of the cap by means of a button and two hooks. The

weight of cap and detachable flap altogether is not more than seven ounces.

“SUN-PROOF.”

A cap has been devised for summer wear which is scientifically “sun-proof,” and has perfect ventilation as well, by Messrs. Lincoln Bennett, the Piccadilly hatters. It is specially ventilated so as to give the maximum current of air over the head, and is fitted with a cork lining which is cool, light, and easy to keep clean. A back curtain, kept in place when not in use by a buckle at the front and two hooks at the sides, is provided for the protection of the neck and ears. When let down, this curtain falls, not from the band of the cap, which would make it fit closely to the back of the neck and would prevent ventilation, but from the back of the crown of the cap. It hangs well away from the back of the head, providing a cool ventilating space between the back of the neck and the curtain itself. Four large eyelet holes at the back come into operation as soon as the curtain is lowered, and these considerably increase the ventilation.

In appearance, this is an ordinary “soft” field-service cap, but the very fine cork lining, and the sun-proof fabric of which the cap is made, are two points that render it superior to ordinary summer headgear. Tests have proved the comfort of the cap, and for the rest it is a hard-wearing article, well and practically designed for summer use.

CAMP KIT.

The actual necessities of camp kit for home service, in addition to the outfit which is independent

of locality, are a folding bedstead, a pillow, a canvas "War Office bed sack," a canvas folding bath and washstand, canvas bucket, folding chair, ground sheet, and kit-bag. Such things as a folding table and a light mattress are not necessities, but they add greatly to one's comfort. It is assumed that the man going under canvas is already in possession of blankets, linen, and the ordinary articles of personal outfit which belong both to civil and military life. With regard to the outfit specified above, assuming every article to be of really reliable quality, it should be possible to purchase all the necessary articles for the sum of £7 10s., or thereabouts. They can be purchased more cheaply, but in this connection it must be borne in mind that camp life entails far harder wear on one's outfit than a normal existence, and quality must be considered accordingly. Two firms that have brought the production of camp outfits near perfection are Messrs. Mappin and Webb, of Oxford Street, and Messrs. Shoolbred, of Tottenham Court Road, and from either of these one may rest assured of getting the best of what is required, and of getting articles that conform to regulation requirements.

#### DETAILS OF IMPORTANCE.

Certain points in connection with the necessary articles of a camp kit call for mention. The bedstead must be of such a pattern that it can be erected for use and folded for travelling without the aid of any tools; it must not have any spare parts or detachable bolts or pins, for such things as these are certain to get lost, sooner or later, and then the whole thing is useless. The pillow, "stuffed horsehair," according to the regulation sealed pattern, should be taken, no



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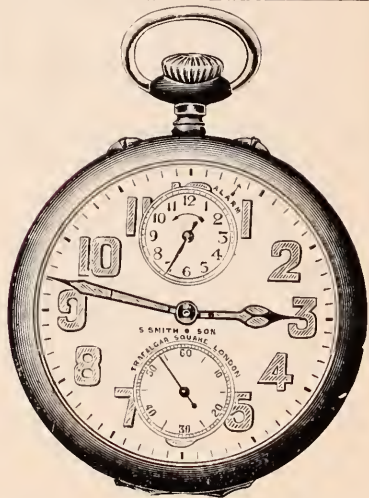
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matter what one may possess in the way of air cushions, etc. At the same time, an air cushion of good quality is an excellent thing to take, and either of the firms mentioned above, or Messrs. J. W. Elvery and Co., of Conduit Street, will supply it—not a flimsy silk pattern, but one of stout material that its owner can place on the ground and sit on if he desires. If this item is of good quality, it will last out all the camp life a man is likely to see, and in the case of mechanical transport men, motor cyclists, and the like, it proves a blessing for other uses than camp life. The folding chair, like the bedstead, must be a one-piece article, as most folding chairs are.

With regard to the folding bath and washstand, and the bucket, Willesden canvas articles are the best in every way—better than enamelled metal ware, which sooner or later comes under pressure and gets spoiled. The ground sheet should be stout and strong; if one has a preference for an oiled silk ground sheet, or for any other fragile kind, it is advisable to make arrangements for a new one to be sent on at least once a month, for that is about the length of time that oiled silk will last when subjected to use as a ground sheet.

#### THE KIT-BAG.

In the matter of a kit-bag, the best pattern seems to be one supplied by either of the two firms mentioned as specialising in the production of camp kit. It is like an exaggerated cricket bag in form, with stiff bottom, limp sides, and a stiff frame top with fastenings at the middle and two ends, and anterior straps with which the bag can be pulled down to the limits of its contents when packed. Fitted as

it is with strong leather handles, this bag is suitable for slinging on a waggon, hanging on a pack mule, or transporting by any reasonable means without injury to the contents. It is made of good waterproofed canvas, reinforced with leather where required to an extent that makes it strong enough to stand all the strains that camp life involve. One of its great advantages is that all the articles packed in it are readily accessible on opening.

### SLEEPING BAGS.

One of the lightest, warmest, and best forms of sleeping bags made, apart from those which combine waterproofness with their warmth, is designed by Messrs. Shoolbred and Co., of Tottenham Court Road. It is constructed of "camel-hair" fleece, downy and soft as the finest blanket; it is threefold in form, and meant to go inside a proofed covering—for it is impossible to make this downy stuff impervious to wet. The bag in question is very light, very warm, and it will wear well.

### THE PONCHO BAG.

A "two-purposes" article which is mainly a sleeping bag has been designed by Messrs. Marshall and Snelgrove, of Oxford Street, in the form of the Mexican "poncho," which forms a fur-lined sleeping bag of about six pounds weight. In shape this article is a large blanket, of which one side is absolutely waterproof, while the other side is fine, warm fur. By means of a series of stud fastenings, this blanket folds in two and forms a sleeping bag which is both warm and weatherproof in all climates and conditions; further, by means of a hole in the middle,

the thing can be slipped over its wearer's head for day use, when it forms a warm and waterproof cape with a good stormproof collar. This "poncho" principle has been applied to oiled silk to form combination capes and sleeping bags, but the wearing qualities of oiled silk are not good enough to justify its recommendation for either ground sheet or sleeping bag use, though it serves well as a light waterproof cape in this form.

### THE KAPOK BAG.

A sleeping bag has been devised which is Wolseley valise, waterproof sleeping bag, and blanket, all in one, with a total weight of about eight pounds. This fine result is attained by the use of a species of canvas not unlike that of which the Wolseley valise is made, and a fixed lining of "kapok" fibre, the latter specially treated to make it soft and comfortable. In many respects this is the best and most compact sleeping bag that has yet been made, for it is available as a valise just as was the old Wolseley pattern article, and it is available as a properly lined sleeping bag without the addition of blankets. Its opening, through which one goes to bed, is secured by the most ingenious of patent fasteners; to open the bag, one simply pulls at the opening as if to tear it apart, and, once inside, the pulling up of a small loop secures the fastening again without trouble or difficulty. The bag is windproof and warm, as well as waterproof; with it one can lie down in the worst kind of swamp and rest assured of keeping perfectly dry and comfortable. It is soundly made, and is a valuable addition to the list of service requisites—the most compact, the most complete, and the lightest complete valise and



sleeping bag yet produced, capable of standing hard wear for an indefinite period.

#### MAP-CASES.

Made twofold, after the pattern of the ordinary map-case with ruled squares, with flexible waterproof transparent joint, the pocket map-case in pigskin, as supplied by Messrs. Shoolbred, is a good item of infantry equipment. It will not take such large maps as the cases designed for slinging over the shoulder or attaching to the belt, but so many things are designed to sling over the shoulder that a departure from the custom is to be commended. This case is of such a size that it can be carried in the tunic pocket, and yet it will show enough of an ordnance map from behind its transparent face to be useful for all ordinary purposes. For staff or artillery officers, of course, it is of little use, but for the average infantry officer it is of real service, and a very handy little thing.

#### LEATHER MAP-CASES.

The threefold map-case of sling pattern is made in first quality pigskin by Messrs. John Pound and Co., of Oxford Street and Leadenhall Street. It is thoroughly well made throughout, with jointed transparent cover inside for the map. The jointing of the cover is a very great improvement on the older method of fastening the sections of celluloid together with metal rings, which left slits through which rain could penetrate when the map is being inspected. With the transparent joints, the map is fully protected when the case is open, and the joints also add to the handiness of the case by rendering it more flexible.

and more easily closed. This threefold leather case is supplied either with swivels or with shoulder strap, as may be required. The same class of case, but with waterproofed fabric for outer cover instead of leather, is supplied by Messrs. Desborough, of 170, Piccadilly, or by Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, of 185, Piccadilly.

#### A RECONNAISSANCE CASE.

The best fitted map-case for reconnaissance purposes is that designed by Messrs. Swaine and Adeney. On one side there is the mica-covered place for the map itself; on the other side, opening away in book form, is a pad for message forms or sketching pad—or both—while in the end of the case is a place for drawing pencils, erasing rubber, and anything else that the reconnoiterer may choose to carry, and there are also pockets, containing protractor, coloured pencils, pins, and other things, and three large pockets for spare papers, carbons for duplicating messages, or whatever the owner of this map-case may find useful. This seems a lot to carry, but it is all arranged in such a compact, neat way that it takes up no more room than the ordinary twofold map-case, while it is so light that it can be fastened by a swivel to the belt, carried by a sling from the shoulder, or even fastened to a button of the tunic without incommoding the wearer. It fastens up so that the whole outfit is proof against any amount of wet; it is so arranged that the sketching outfit need not get wet while the user is consulting the map. Every detail has been most carefully considered, and the net result is the most compact and serviceable map-case that has been yet devised in combination with a sketching outfit for reconnaissance work.

## CAMP COOKERS.

A new spirit cooker and heater has been designed by "Tommy's Cooker," of Piccadilly Arcade, for field use, in which the heating medium is solidified spirit in tiny tins, each of which will burn for a matter of an hour or so, though five minutes of its burning is enough to heat a quart of water to boiling point, after which the tin can be closed down and employed again and again until empty. The complete heater consists, in addition to the tins of solidified spirit, of a cylinder with perforated sides. In the bottom of this cylinder is placed the spirit tin, and on the top is placed the tin of rations, can of water, or whatever it may be desired to heat for use. This solidified spirit forms a very compact method of carrying a complete cooking apparatus; one can easily carry six of the little tins of spirit—nearly a month's supply of heating material for all cooking purposes, as far as one man is concerned. The solidified spirit is perfectly safe to carry, requires no trimming nor adjustment for burning, and provides a quick and efficient method of heating food, while it has also the advantages of smokelessness and practical invisibility.

## LOADED STICKS.

Now that the sword which, in old time, infantry officers were obliged to carry, is an optional item, many officers have given preference to stout loaded sticks for service use. One of the patterns now being very largely used by officers actually on service is a heavy crop, whalebone in substance, covered with plaited kangaroo hide, loaded, and fitted at the end with a little projection which with a mere tap would

penetrate the head of an assailant at close quarters. It is a very useful thing, and has already accounted for more than one German in the trench fighting in France. Well-balanced, and easy to handle, it makes a good weapon. Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, of 185, Piccadilly, are the makers.

#### ELECTRIC LAMPS.

The electric torch and its variants, in many cases, are good only for a very limited period, and so flimsily and uncertainly constructed that they cannot be relied on for use except under the most favourable conditions. Messrs. Smith and Sons, of Trafalgar Buildings, Charing Cross, have placed on the market a fully British-made electric lamp which is absolutely reliable, and which, by means of the press-button at the top, will serve for signalling by the Morse code, and will also serve as a reading or tent lamp by giving the press-button a half-turn and leaving it. The lamp is enclosed in a neat leather case, which will attach to the belt of one's equipment, and the cover of this case is so arranged that by pressing the button at the top the light of the lamp is thrown downward, thus making map-reading by lamplight a perfectly easy matter. Both lamp and case are solidly and soundly made, the dry cell is a reliable one, and the lamp as a whole is well suited to service requirements.

#### A GAS LAMP.

Practically all equipment dealers supply the old folding lamp with mica sides, designed to take candles, but candles are often beyond reach. In such a motor war as this, however, there is little difficulty in getting carbide of calcium, and thus the folding

carbide lamp, as supplied by Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, is a welcome innovation. It is strongly constructed, with three mica windows and a metal back, and it folds as flat and small as the old-time candle lamp, while it is a good deal lighter than that article. The calcium lamp part can be detached when the lantern is folded, and can also be very easily replaced for use; the lamp itself burns four or five hours on one charge, and, as all users of acetylene will realise, gives as good a light as can be obtained in portable form. The construction of the whole article is extremely simple and practical, and it has already won favour on active service.

## VI

### FIELD INSTRUMENTS

#### PERISCOPES.

Once a machine-gun gets going, it keeps down all enemy heads, stops the enemy fire, and makes a huge difference to the chances of riflemen near by, but the business of "getting going," in trench warfare, is the main difficulty. Those who come back from the trenches say that the first man to start firing the machine-gun is usually picked off by an enemy marksman before he can get sight and range, while the one who succeeds him at the gun has only a little better chance. This second man, however, gets a good sight of the target for his gun before he drops, and thus the third man, on coming to handle the gun, finds his target quickly enough to smother the enemy fire, wherefore he achieves his object and the gun does its



work without further interruption. Meanwhile, the two first men who took on the work of the gun need either burial or Red Cross attention, because they had to poke their heads above trench level in order to see what they had to fire at. Had there been a periscope in the gun equipment those two men would still be in the firing line.

Thus the periscope, adapted for trench use, ranks as a life-saving apparatus; the extent to which it saves lives can only be appreciated by those who know something of trench work, though, if the letters that come back from users of trench periscopes at the front be perused, outsiders can gain some idea of the way in which these things are looked on. In selecting a periscope, one can pay anything from seven and sixpence to forty or fifty pounds, the latter for the prismatic telescopic outfit—and the higher prices are sheer waste for ordinary trench use. The ordinary thing, with two good mirrors and something to set them at the proper angle, is what is required, and one periscope to every six men is not a bit too large a provision.

There are many patterns of trench periscope on the market, for makers have set to work to meet the demand in different ways, but the great majority fall into two heads—the open periscope and the tube form. The open periscope consists of a stem—folding or otherwise—on which two mirrors are supported by means of some form of clip or groove. The tube form embodies the same principle, but the two mirrors are set one at each end of a tube, so that one gets a *camera obscura* effect by placing the eye close to the view end of the tube. There is a certain amount of gain in the use of this form, but very little; for

ordinary trench purposes there is very little difference between the open and closed forms, except that the open form is less conspicuous and thus presents a smaller target than the tube form. The best model of each form may be briefly considered.

#### THE "TRENCHOSCOPE."

Made by Messrs. Adams and Co., of Charing Cross Road, the "trenchoscope" is about the best form of open periscope for trench use pure and simple—that is, for any position in which a periscope can be set up and kept in position in order to get a safe view of the ground to the front of the position concerned. It folds into four sections and encloses in a compact case with its mirrors for carrying purposes; in use, it opens out to about three feet, and the clips which hold the mirrors are adjustable, so that the distance between the mirrors can be varied from three feet to as little as is required. Its joints are strong and well-made, and its optically ground mirrors are held by strong clips—it is simply and strongly constructed throughout, and has no spare parts to get out of order. It is made in two sizes, one for ordinary trench use, and the larger pattern with large mirrors suitable for use with prismatic field-glasses, specially suitable for artillery work. It may be said that this pattern of periscope has received warm commendations from officers who have tested its efficiency in the actual firing line.

#### THE "LIFEGUARD."

The type of periscope necessary for service work varies with the season and the type of work that the

season brings. With the fixed trench work of the winter months the "trenchoscope" was the best open type of periscope, and it still is so for trench work pure and simple, but in cases where the users of periscopes are moving from point to point continually, portability and rapid adjustment are of far more importance than they were in trench work, and here the "Lifeguard" pattern of periscope, made by Messrs. Duerr and Sons, Manchester, S.W., is a highly serviceable instrument. In this pattern the mirrors are connected by a sort of lattice work of metal, so that one simply pulls the mirrors away from each other in order to extend the periscope for working, and pushes them toward each other to close the instrument for carrying in the pocket or haversack. This pattern is the most compact of any; it is more quickly adjusted for use than any other, and its only drawback is the absence of a prong or stand, by means of which it could be fixed in the side of a trench—a drawback which is not of much importance in the class of work for which this pattern of instrument is designed, namely, alternate trench and open field-work. For this combination of purposes the "Lifeguard" is the best all-purpose periscope, and the handiest and lightest.

#### THE CLOSED FORM.

The best form of closed periscope, designed for trench use, is that supplied by Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, which has been so constructed as to make it possible to traverse the field of view without disturbing the support by which the periscope is fixed in the side of the trench, or wherever it may be fixed for use. Fully extended, this pattern is over two feet in

length, while it folds down to very little over a foot by means of a telescopic arrangement, and fixes firmly at any length between these two extremities. It is light and rigid, its lower mirror can be adjusted to any required angle, and as a whole it is a serviceable article for trench use, embodying all that is best in the closed form of periscope. It may be mentioned that, in purchasing this or any other form of periscope for field use, at least one spare mirror should be obtained.

#### A HYBRID FORM.

A species of cross between the open and tube forms of periscope has been devised by Messrs. Shoolbred and Co. in the shape of one side of the ordinary box periscope, which, for travelling, folds up in the same way as a book closes. When closed, it measures about a foot by four and a half inches, and is about half an inch thick; when opened for use, the distance between the mirrors is twenty inches, the frame is perfectly rigid, and the instrument is very light and handy. It can be closed and opened very easily and quickly, and on the whole it forms a very useful addition to the list of periscopes. It is less conspicuous than the ordinary box periscope, as well as being lighter, more compact, and more easily set in position for use.

#### COMPASSES.

Throughout the winter the obtaining of a prismatic compass was much on the same level as Raleigh's search for Eldorado. Several causes contributed to the difficulty, first among them being the

sudden and enormous Government demand, which left private buyers standing. Then there was the fact that the prisms which help to give these compasses their value for field use were principally a foreign production. And so much is this the case that it is still difficult to get a pair of prismatic field-glasses, inquire where one may. For artillery work, the prismatic compass is almost indispensable, and for any form of reconnaissance work it is superior to all other compasses. It is still difficult to get good prismatics of the Mark VI. and Mark VII. types, but a limited supply of these is available from Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, of 185, Piccadilly, and from Messrs. Mappin and Webb, of Oxford Street. The first-named firm, too, is able to supply prismatic field-glasses in small quantities.

A good luminous compass, made in gun-metal with luminous line on the glass for night marching and a luminous line on the lid, is the next best thing to a prismatic, and with revolving bezel this form gives almost as good results as a "Mark VII.," except for artillery work. Another form of field-compass is that arranged for wrist wear, which is smaller and more compact, but, with luminous pointer, is eminently serviceable. A point to be remembered in purchasing either a wrist or pocket compass is that it *must* be fitted with a "stop" to lift the needle off its pin when the compass is not actually in use; without this device the utility of the compass is a matter of days, and no more, for the point of the pin is soon spoilt if the compass is not rendered rigid for travelling. Both the above forms of compass can be obtained in first quality from Messrs. Smith and Sons, of Trafalgar Buildings, Charing Cross.



Limitations of space, and not the end of the subject of kit and equipment, bring this summary of useful articles to a close. The subject itself is endless in its range, and every day sees something new in either kit or equipment, something which the need of the day has brought out. The foregoing pages make no attempt at completeness, but, as far as they go, are designed to show where and how to get the best of each article required.

In the series appearing weekly in *Land and Water* under the general title of "Choosing Kit," further hints on the choice of equipment will be found for as long as active service requirements render the subject of interest.

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